

## France: Clarification needed on Iraq

PARIS (R) — France's conservative government said Sunday it understood the reasons for the U.S. missile attack on Baghdad, but the question which arises is to know what the international community is seeking in its relations with Iraq, and it is on that point that perhaps a clarification is needed. Foreign Minister Alain Juppe told RTL radio, "Is it a question of destabilising Iraq and taking it apart? Or is it a question of bending its policies so that it respects international resolutions? France believed that 'in this rather complicated region, the existence of an Iraqi state is an element of stability in the region...objectives have to be clarified.' Mr. Juppe said he understood the reaction of the Americans. 'We understand this reaction perfectly and share any action against terrorism,' he said. But, referring to resolutions on Iraq following the 1991 Gulf war, he added: 'Our action in Iraq is in a different context. We are in the context of the application of U.N. resolutions.'

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## Iraq: 8 killed in U.S. missile strike

Clinton says attack on intelligence building retaliation for Bush plot

Combined agency dispatches

RAO SAID Sunday a U.S. missile strike on Baghdad killed eight civilians, including a baby and a close friend of President Saddam Hussein, and highlighted the 'barbaric' nature of the U.S. hegemony in the world."

The official Iraqi News Agency listed 12 people wounded in the pre-dawn attack against the Iraqi intelligence headquarters. It said relief teams were searching for more victims believed buried in the debris of collapsed buildings.

The Venezuelan embassy in the fashionable Al Mansour district was also hit, although no casualties were reported there, the agency said.

Iraq Foreign Minister Mohammad Al Sahaf sent a letter to the U.N. Security Council, complaining about the 'unjustified, unprovoked aggression.'

The letter, whose text was released by the agency, said: 'The international community's silence towards American attacks on Iraq and other Third World nations has encouraged the U.S. to strive to control the world through armed aggression, organised state terrorism and extortion.'

President Bill Clinton said he ordered the strike in retaliation for a 'loathsome and cowardly' assassination plot against former President George Bush.

U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff Chairman Colin Powell said 23 Tomahawk missiles were launched from two U.S. navy ships in the Red Sea and the Gulf. At least three missed the intelligence headquarters a few hundred metres.

Mr. Clinton said there was 'compelling evidence' that Iraqi intelligence plotted to kill Mr.



Friends condole an Iraqi man who lost two of his children in Saturday's U.S. missile attack on Baghdad (AFP photo)

Bush during an April visit to Kuwait.

Iraq's ruling Revolutionary Command Council refuted the claim. It said in a statement the alleged assassination plot was 'fabricated' by Kuwait in coordination with Washington in an effort to justify military action against Iraq.

Robert Moore, Independent Television News correspondent in Baghdad, told the BBC many floors of the Iraqi intelligence headquarters collapsed in the attack. He said he also saw rescuers drag the body of an elderly Iraqi out of rubble in a residential area.

The Iraqi media made no mention of damage or casualties at the intelligence building.

Iraqi officials said eight people were killed and at least a dozen others wounded. Adel Ibrahim, a spokesman for the Iraqi embassy in Jordan, said Leila Attar, an Iraqi artist and the director of the Saddam Centre for Arts, her husband and their housemaid died when a missile hit their house. The couple's daughter and son were among at least a dozen other people wounded. Iraqi News Agency said.

Associated Press photographer Jassim Mohammad said he awoke to the zoom of missiles passing overhead.

"It was scary," Mr. Mohammad said. "We did not know what was going on, but everybody was rushing to take shelter."

The Iraqi media made no mention of damage or casualties at the intelligence building.

It called for an end to "double

### Iraq says it downed missile

IRAQ SAID Sunday its air defences shot down a U.S. cruise missile during the attack on its intelligence headquarters. Television showed Iraqi experts defusing the rocket. "Our anti-aircraft defences in Habaniya shot down one U.S. cruise missile fired by the American navy," state television said in its main news bulletin. Habaniya is 60 kilometres west of Baghdad.

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### Allies back action, but Arabs decry it

Combined agency dispatches

WORLD REACTION to the U.S. raid on Iraq was mixed Sunday with America's allies saying the pre-dawn cruise missile strike on the Iraqi intelligence headquarters in Baghdad was justified.

But the Arab League and several countries, including Malaysia, Iran and Sudan, condemned the attack as an act of terrorism while the Syrian-based Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP) called on all Arabs to 'join together to rebuff the aggressors.'

In a communiqué released in Cairo, the Arab League said it 'strongly deplored' the attack and warned against the risks of using military means without the approval of the U.N. Security Council.

"Resorting to force to resolve international problems without a (prior) U.N. Security Council decision... implies risks which run against the establishment of a new world order based on respect for international law," the league said.

The league also said the attack 'provoked painful psychological effects among the peoples who are victims of such acts.'

The league urged the world to also focus attention on 'Israeli practices against the Palestinian people in the occupied territories as well as on crimes committed by the Serbs against the people of Bosnia-Herzegovina.'

It called for an end to "double

standards."

The Security Council in New York was to hold an emergency meeting Sunday at the request of the United States which wants to explain the raid on Iraq.

The Russian Foreign Ministry said Sunday that the 'U.S. actions are justified because they flow from the state's individual and collective right to self-defence.'

Britain, Israel, Germany, Austria and Australia also voiced support for the U.S. move with British Prime Minister John Major saying 'the USA were entirely right and I fully support their action of self-defence.'

Mr. Major, like several other U.S. allies, had been informed of the attack before it was launched.

British Labour Party leader John Smith, however, said he has some 'grave doubts' as to the legality of the attack.

"We believe that where necessary, any action against Iraq should be governed strictly by decision of the United Nations," he said.

Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd, asked by BBC radio if Britain would support follow-up action if Washington thought it necessary, said: "I don't think they will decide it's necessary."

He added: "I don't know how the Iraqis themselves will react. They'd be very foolish if they started a fit-for-tat."

Speaking during a visit to Northern Ireland, Mr. Major

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## Tests show King in excellent health

AMMAN (J.T.) — Doctors testing His Majesty King Hussein at a U.S. hospital have found no sign that cancer has returned, a statement from the Royal Palace said.

The Monarch, 57, underwent routine checkups Friday and Saturday at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota, where surgeons last year removed a kidney after finding cancerous cells.

"His Majesty King Hussein has successfully concluded his second round of post-operative routine medical tests at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota."

"The King's private physician, Dr. Samir Farraj, said that the tests, which were conducted in Rochester by a team of Mayo Clinic doctors and allied health staff led by Dr. David Barrett on June 25 and 26, showed no trace of the cancer for which the King was operated on last August. Test results also concluded that King Hussein's overall health is in excellent condition."

"King Hussein plans to continue to undergo routine checkups of the urinary tract every six months, the normal course of follow-up care for patients who are treated for this type of urinary tract problem. The next round of tests will be conducted at the end of the year, Dr. Farraj added.

"King Hussein will be departing Rochester on Sunday."

The full results of the tests have shown that His Majesty is enjoying excellent health and none of the tests showed any sign of cancer, which His Majesty had suffered from."

The King's private physician Samir Farraj, was quoted as saying by the Jordan News Agency, Petra.



He said the King would need to go back to the clinic in six months for his third checkup since his operation last August.

King Hussein, who is fond of sports and maintains a busy work schedule, has complained of feeling tired after the surgery.

He is expected to return to Amman Wednesday. His visit to Washington, which ended on Friday is seen as a triumph in improving relations chilled by the Gulf war.

The King, who was paying a state visit to Washington, held talks with President Bill Clinton and senior administration officials as well as congressional leaders in what was seen as a turning point in Jordanian-American relations following the strain in ties caused by the Gulf war.

The discussions the King had in Washington covered the Middle East peace process, the democratisation process underway in Jordan and bilateral relations as well as the Kingdom's stands vis-a-vis various regional and international issues.

## Jordan regrets attack on Iraq and condoles families of victims

By Ayman Al Safadi

Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordan Sunday expressed "sorrow and sadness" over the U.S. missile attack on Baghdad in which Iraq says eight civilians were killed and 12 others injured.

"The violence can only lead to further hatred and more human and material losses," His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, said.

The U.S. launched the pre-dawn assault on the Iraqi intelligence headquarters in retaliation for an alleged Iraqi plot to assassinate former U.S. President George Bush. Iraq, which denies the allegations, said some of the 23 cruise missiles, fired from American naval ships in the Red Sea and the Arabian Gulf, hit residential areas.

Prince Hassan said the attack, the first in six months, would not have occurred had the Arab stance been "more steadfast" and Shura (council) prevalent.

"... Shura is the basis that leads people to better lives, safeguard rights and drives away tyranny and aggression," the Crown Prince told a graduation ceremony of the military wing at Muta University.

Prince Hassan said Jordan believes in resolving conflicts through dialogue and in accordance with United Nations principles which "advocate circumventing all recourse to violence."

The Crown Prince offered condolences to the families of the victims on behalf of the King, government and people of Jordan and hoped that "God will ease their suffering."

The attack, which was supported by America's Western allies in the coalition that drove Iraq from Kuwait in 1991, drew strong condemnation from various political parties in Jordan.

"(This attack) is a part of the American crusade against the Arab and Muslim nations."



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Sunday inspects a guard of honour at Muta university (Petra photo).

## Regent pays tribute to Armed Forces and Muta University

AMMAN (I.T.) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Sunday said that increased military preparedness and training was the main means to confront challenges.

"We are exerting all efforts to provide the Armed Forces with the most up-to-date equipment and are doing all we can to offer the army the best training so that it can live up to the nation's expectations," the Regent said at a graduation ceremony at Muta University.

"These troops offer humanita-

rian assistance and relief to the embattled nations following in the footsteps of and acting under the guidance of their leader His Majesty King Hussein," he said.

"The Armed Forces will continue to serve as a shield for the nation, protecting its soil, defending the nation's values, principles and Islamic faith," he said.

"Following in the footsteps of the ancestors of this nation at the beginning of the present century, we have to shoulder our responsibility."

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# 2 Middle East News

## U.S. sees Sudan as breeding ground for Islamic militants

By Ruth Sinai  
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — On a sweltering day in July 1990, a blind, barefoot Muslim cleric entered the U.S. embassy in Khartoum, capital of Sudan, and got a permit to visit the United States.

Among the followers Sheikh Omar Abdul Rahman has since attracted in this country are five Sudanese arrested for allegedly plotting a campaign of bombings and assassinations in New York City.

Sudan, like Iran, is ruled according to Islamic law and has become a breeding ground for the spread of Islamic militancy.

Although Sudan's government is not known to have carried out any terrorist attacks itself, the

United States has several times in recent months considered placing it on a list of countries supporting terrorism.

It is a case of guilt by association, say U.S. officials, who note that Sudan is hosting a growing number of Iranian-sponsored groups.

"The United States is very disturbed by the close relationship that Sudan has developed with Iran," said State Department spokesman Mike McCurry on Friday. "We know that Iran is a leading sponsor of international terrorism."

The relationship with Tehran began to burgeon soon after Iraq lost the 1991 Gulf war and was no longer able to help its ally, Sudan.

Sudan's military government,

which had overthrown civilian rulers in a 1989 coup, quickly turned to Iran where it found an eager benefactor.

Soon after, Iranian President Hashemi Rafsanjani visited Khartoum and Sudan's government announced the imposition of Islamic law. Women were to don veils and courts were to practice according to the Koran.

"The present military government... has pursued religiously extremist policies," says the U.S. State Department's 1992 human rights report, which documents an aggressive drive to impose Islamic laws on Sudan's 25 million people.

This drive, and increasing evidence of severe human rights violations, further strained U.S.-Sudanese relations, resulting in a cutoff of all U.S. military aid and in the government's Nov. 3, 1992, ban of all U.S. commercial weapons exports to Sudan.

Meanwhile, Iran was providing millions of dollars to build Islamic centres, and has sent several hundred elite military troops to train an ideologically motivated, Muslim paramilitary force called the Popular Defence Force.

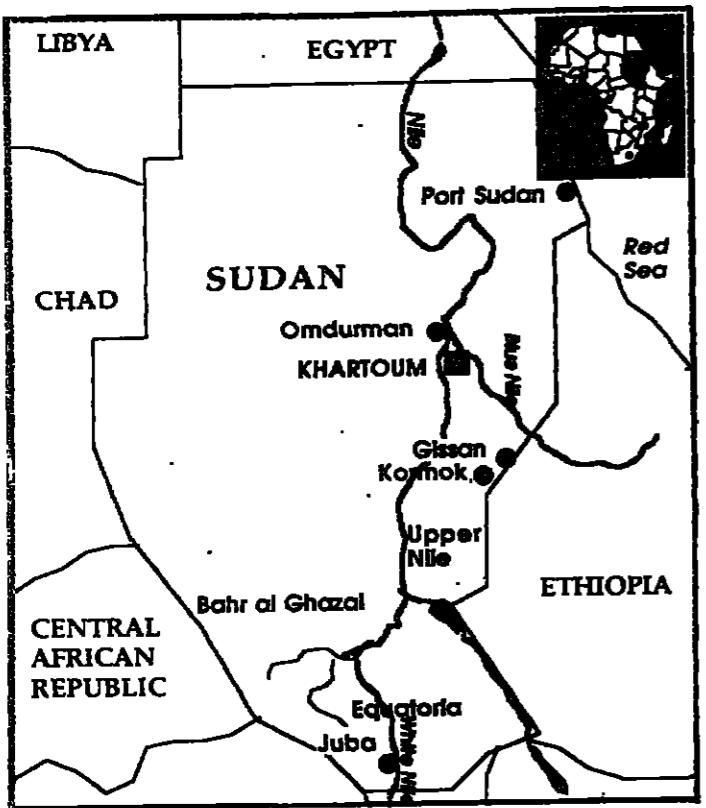
The Iranian Revolutionary Guards also began using Sudan as a base to train Muslim cadres from Tunisia, Egypt and Algeria so they can overthrow their secular governments and install Islamic rule, say U.S. and Israeli officials.

Sudan has offered offices and training facilities for several Iranian-backed groups, among them the Lebanon-based Hezbollah, as well as the Palestinian groups Hamas and Islamic Jihad, according to the U.S. State Department.

This helped Iran at a time when it was being forced to find a new home for some of its protégés because Syria, under strong pressure from the United States, was shutting down some training facilities in Lebanon's Bekaa Valley.



ON THE BEACH: Israeli soldiers patrol the beach adjoining an Israeli settlement in the occupied Gaza Strip Sunday. The day's toll in the strip was one Palestinian killed and several wounded (AFP photo).



### Israelis meet N. Koreans on missiles

WASHINGTON (AFP) — An Israeli delegation has met North Korean Communist Party officials in Peking in a bid to half Pyongyang's missile sales to the Middle East, foreign ministry sources said Sunday.

Eytan Benzur, the ministry's deputy director-general, and his aide Avi Sitton, had discussions Friday in the Chinese capital but does not practice the Jewish religion.

Mr. Ross, 45, a former director of the State Department's policy planning staff, was named June 18 to the newly created post of special coordinator for the negotiations, which entered their 10th round in Washington on June 15.

In the Bush administration, Mr. Ross was considered the right-hand man of then-Secretary of State James Baker.

His Jewish origin has not posed problems in his contacts with the Arab World. But Israel's far right has called him a shameful Jew who pressured the government of former Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir to join the peace negotiations.

"This man is profoundly motivated by his will to bring peace. He knows how to be at the same time persistent and pleasant," a Palestinian peace negotiator said.

According to a former diplomat, Mr. Ross convinced a hesitant Baker to become involved in the Middle East peace process.

"Ross is one of the most creative foreign policy makers. He played a crucial role" in engineering the peace process, said Robert Satloff, director of the Washington Institute, a think tank considered pro-Israel.

Mr. Satloff said Mr. Ross' appointment "proves a higher level of American engagement (to the process) but not unlimited," since the post is only for six months.

But Mr. Ross will not have any decision-making powers, pointed out other Middle East specialists, who say his long-time ties to the former Republican government will keep him from becoming close to President Bill Clinton.

The Washington Post described Mr. Ross, a former academic, as "a hardcore political wonk" and an uninvited negotiator who does not get discouraged by the difficult Middle East peace process.

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### Ross charged with moving peace talks

WASHINGTON (AFP) — The State Department has given the task of advancing the stalled Arab-Israeli peace talks to Dennis Ross, the official who conceived the idea during the administration of President George Bush.

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## Vocational corporation to train unemployed, expand programmes

AMMAN (Petra) — Vocational Training Corporation (VTC) Director General Ahmad Atwan Sunday said the corporation will train unemployed young men and women in a variety of trades to make the place of guest workers and will expand vocational training programmes for women and increase related centres by seven.

He said the VTC will also adopt measures to double its capacity to finance its own projects and will also increase its programmes to encourage unemployed citizens to train in one of the trades that can ensure employment and steady income, said Mr. Atwan.

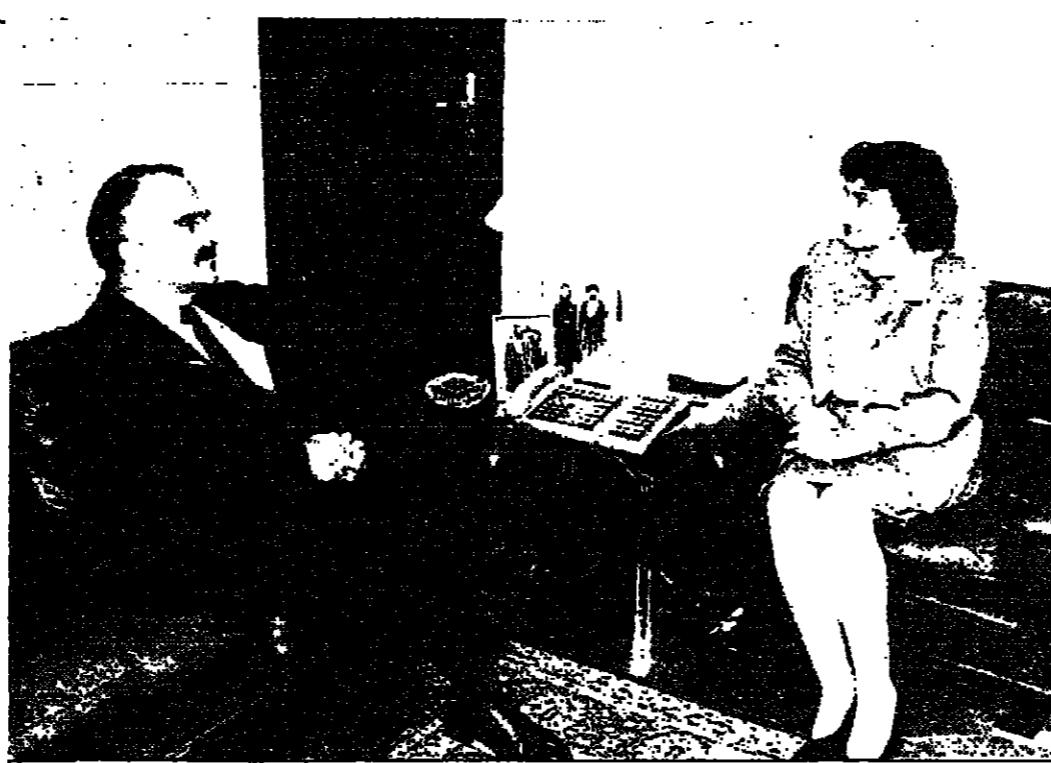
Since its establishment in 1976, said Mr. Atwan, the VTC has provided vocational training to 15,554 young men and women. The youth, he said, have had

extra training in private sector factories and workshops.

In recent years, the VTC has been focusing on training young men and women in construction, hotel management, restaurant services, weaving, printing, machinery maintenance and baking to meet requirements of the local labour market, he noted.

Despite its efforts, the VTC still faces major challenges such as a disorganized labour market, low level technical efficiency, negligence in occupational safety, poor industrial guidance services and the mounting problem of unemployment, said Mr. Atwan.

He said the VTC's training programmes range from three months to two years, noting that plans are underway for training 16,000 young men and women this year.



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Sunday meets with visiting World Food Programme Executive Director Catherine Bertini (Petra photo)



A husband and wife prune a young fig tree in the maintenance stage of a World Food Programme supported project in Jordan



MADABA GRADUATION: Her Royal Highness Princess Sarvath Al Hassan Sunday attends a graduation ceremony at the Latin Patriarch School in Madaba. School Principal Father Yacoub Hijazeen delivered an address at the ceremony in which he welcomed Princess Sarvath and praised her keen interest in educational activities. Father Hijazeen also commended the stands of His Majesty King Hussein and His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent.

### NEWS IN BRIEF

#### Health ministry to create research office

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Health Abdul Rahim Malhas Sunday announced plans to create an office to conduct research on all technical projects carried by the ministry. The office will also conduct studies at the ministry's request on other issues and programmes.

#### Labour minister meets with unions head

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Labour Khaled Ghzawi Sunday received at the ministry Secretary General of the Federation of Jordanian Labour Unions Khaled Shreim for talks. Mr. Ghzawi underlined the importance of cooperation and coordination among the unions, associations, employers, the representatives of the industry and trade chambers and the ministry and called on all parties to work as one team to serve their mutual interests and the interests of Jordan.

#### Trade minister meets with Mauritanian, Singaporean envoys

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Industry and Trade Bassam Al Saket Sunday met with the honorary consul of Mauritania Ali Al Halabi who conveyed to him a message from his Mauritanian counterpart on scopes of economic and trade cooperation between the two countries. Dr. Saket also met with the non-resident ambassador of Singapore to Jordan, Hui Ding Chiang, and discussed with him areas of economic and commercial cooperation between Jordan and Singapore.

#### Human rights centre calls meeting

AMMAN (Petra) — Head of the Constituent Assembly of the Arab Freedoms, Democracy and Human Rights Studies Centre Najiib Al Rashdan Sunday called for a meeting of the assembly next Wednesday at the Parliament.

#### 2 rural markets to open in Irbid

IRBID (Petra) — The Princess Basma Social Services Centre of the Queen Alia Jordan Social Welfare Fund (QAF) will open two rural markets in Irbid city and the neighbouring town of Oumein to market agricultural produce and home-made items of rural families. Centre Director Nabih Al Rousan said the two markets will include agriculture produce, food supplies, handicrafts, artificial flowers, knit-wear and embroidered items.

#### HUDD receives applications for housing awards

AMMAN (Petra) — Director general of the Housing and Urban Development Department (HUDD) Yousef Hiyasat Saturday evening announced that the corporation has started receiving applications for the 1993 Arab Housing and Construction Awards. The first award, named the Hassan Fathi Award, will be granted to a project which preserves the aspects of Arab and Islamic architecture and meets the needs of citizens with limited income, Mr. Hiyasat said. He said the winner of the prize will receive a merit award plus \$5,000. The second award, he said, will be granted to the best housing project carried out in the Arab World, provided that it includes no less than 50 housing units. The winner of the second prize will receive a merit award certificate and a golden medal, he said.

#### Irbid CDD trains 2,834 citizens

IRBID (Petra) — The number of civilians who were trained on civil defence works in Irbid governorate totalled 2,834, during the past five months, according to Director of Irbid Civil Defence Department Colonel Fathi Al Saud. Col. Saud said the trainees received lectures and practical exercises on first aid, firefighting and rescue works. The department, he said, is working diligently to educate the people on public safety measures that can help CDD personnel when needed.

#### GUVS donate JD 10,000 to Bosnian guests

AMMAN (Petra) — The General Union of Voluntary Societies (GUVS) extended JD 10,000 as a donation to Bosnian families hosted by Jordan. Deputy Chairman of the Executive Council of GUVS Issam Ghosheh presented the sum to Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Abdul Salam Al Abbadi, who is also executive president of the Jordan Hashemite Charity Organisation, which supervises the Bosnian refugees' stay in Amman. The 420 refugees from war-torn Bosnia-Herzegovina are temporarily staying at Umm Tena School in Jabal Iteib area in Amman since they arrived here two weeks ago.

## World Food Programme director winds up visit

### Crown Prince urges coordinating U.N. efforts in development process

By Jennifer Hamarneh  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Winding up a four-day visit to Jordan, the World Food Programme (WFP) Executive Director Catherine Bertini Sunday was received by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, who voiced appreciation of the role of the WFP in Jordan.

Prince Hassan underlined the need to coordinate the efforts of the United Nations development agencies with the objective of organising the process of exploiting resources to achieve a comprehensive and sustainable development.

The Regent also briefed Ms. Bertini on the humanitarian dimension of the development process, saying the success of these projects is linked to their success in developing humanitarian conditions of their beneficiaries.

Ms. Bertini expressed her appreciation of the Jordanian achievement at the level of comprehensive development and the Kingdom's ability to adapt to

economic and social changes. Ms. Bertini was also received Sunday by Her Royal Highness Princess Basma at the Queen Alia Jordan Social Welfare (QAF) to discuss expanding the nutrition project carried out jointly by QAF, WFP and the Ministry of Education.

The WFP chief also met with several senior officials including Minister of Education and Higher Education Khaled Al Omary and Minister of Planning Ziad Fariz.

At a press conference Sunday Ms. Bertini said she was quite pleased with the status of WFP-supported projects in Jordan, adding that wherever she toured in the last three days she saw "rows and rows of carefully planted trees" which she described as "the programme at work."

Ms. Bertini, who arrived in Amman Thursday on a four-day official visit to the Kingdom, said the programme has three ongoing projects valued at \$37 million.

Cost-sharing, which entails the farmer paying for his labour and purchasing some of his input, supports the aim of the programme.

Here farmers are assisted in planting orchards on their own land.

The WFP support, she said, consists of providing tree saplings, agricultural extension services and food aid.

The food aid concept works as an incentive for farmers to work towards successful ventures, said WFP Director in Jordan Majeed Fassih.

"We make sure food assistance is parallel with work achieved," Mr. Fassih, told the press conference.

The aid works on a three-year basis, he explained: food instalments are distributed during one year of planting and two years of maintenance.

"The farmer need not be concerned with feeding the family during the three years prior to the harvest and WFP guarantees that the farmer follows through on the project by allocating the food packages according to the success of the activities," Mr. Fassih said.

Cost-sharing, which entails the farmer paying for his labour and purchasing some of his input, supports the aim of the programme.

me in encouraging self-reliance and not food aid dependency, Mr. Fassih maintained.

Another WFP project is the assistance to primary schools, literacy centres, social development centers and kindergartens in the rural areas. Although Ms. Bertini acknowledged that she was unable to visit the schools as classes were in recess for the summer, she said the ongoing project fed about 60,000 children and an average of 2,600 adults in the literacy programmes annually.

Ms. Bertini said the third project, designed to expand forests and rangelands, benefits 2,500 labourers, 1,500 agricultural cooperative members and 350 small farmers in the Zarqa River Catchment area.

With the programme's assistance over the years, trees have been planted on 152,000 dunums, terraces covering 124,000 dunums have been constructed and 96,000 dunums of rangeland have been planted.

WFP is the largest multilateral food aid organisation in the world

and source of grant aid in the U.N. system. Last year the programme supplied a record 5.2 million tonnes of food aid to an estimated 42 million people worldwide.

For Jordan, according to a WFP statement, the programme is the largest source of multilateral official development assistance.

The WFP commitment to Jordan is higher on a per capita basis than in most countries, Ms. Bertini told the press. When asked later why Jordan was such a large recipient of food aid, Ms. Bertini explained that WFP assistance began very early in this region, and the Jordanian government expressed strong interest to cooperate in the programme and use its resources.

Asked about one of its first projects which involved the resettlement of the bedouins and how that came to be a controversial issue decades later, Ms. Bertini explained resettlement was the wish of the government, and although the project was well scrutinised by the WFP, the agency

was not directly involved in the social aspects of the scheme.

The priority for WFP was to develop the rangelands and support small activities which would "help people become self-reliant." In this respect, she said, the aim of the agency is to target the poorest people.

In response to an inquiry about the nutritional value of the food distributions, Ms. Bertini explained as a package that considers a balance of nutritional interests and the people's interests, which justifies the sugar and black tea items provided for in the package, along with meat, dairy, grain and legumes.

Ms. Bertini said she met a farmer who had been with the programme over 20 years ago and who now ran his own successful farming enterprise, and she met others who had recently become involved and expressed satisfaction with the project.

She said she was delighted to see that the WFP programme was continuing to benefit Jordan.

### Community, health centres to go up in Aqaba

AMMAN (Petra) — The Housing and Urban Development Department (HUDD) Sunday awarded a JD 170,000 tender to a local construction firm to build a community centre and a health centre at the corporation's housing estates in Aqaba.

Corporation Director General Yousef Hiyasat said the two centres will serve nearly 8,000 families living in the housing estates of North Shallaib and Al Khazzan districts established by the corporation over the past few years.

The community centre is designed to train local housewives in income-generating activities,

said Mr. Hiyasat.

The centre will also conduct training courses in child health and mother care and other social and health fields to promote and improve conditions in the two housing estates, added Mr. Hiyasat.

He said once the health centre is completed, the Health Ministry will provide the necessary medical equipment and install the health services for the local residents.

Mr. Hiyasat said community and health centres are regular features of all corporation housing projects around the country.

### TCC disrupts service to 27,500 subscribers

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — For the second day Telecommunications Corporation (TCC) offices around the country witnessed a rush by telephone subscribers to pay their back-due bills.

TCC Director General Ahmad Nawawi told the Jordan Times that subscribers who failed to pay their telephone bills for service between February and April this year had their services partially disrupted.

The TCC has placed additional staff at its centres in Amman and the other governorates which will remain open from eight a.m. until three p.m. to cope with the large number of subscribers rushing to pay their bills with the one week allowed, said the TCC chief.

The partial disconnection means that delinquent subscribers can receive calls, but can not make them, he explained.

A total of 27,500 subscribers around the country, including 13,000 in the Greater Amman

### Technical failures blamed for recent water shortages

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The recent water shortages in the greater Amman area were caused by technical failures, but the inconveniences are about to end with a gradual easing of the situation within the next few days, said Water Authority of Jordan (WAJ) Director Qusai Quteishat.

Mr. Quteishat told the Jordan Times that regions in southern Amman received little water following technical failure at the electricity generation unit in southern Amman which rendered pumping stations idle.

He said the shortage in southern Amman also coincided with technical failures causing low level pumping from the Khawara area on the eastern side and a

area alone, whose total combined bills are estimated at nearly JD 8 million, have been affected by the punitive measure taken Saturday, said Mr. Nawawi.

He said the move followed repeated announcements through the press that the TCC would be forced to take this measure unless the bills were paid.

Delinquent subscribers have one week to settle their bills or face total disconnection for 30 days, after which their subscriptions will be cancelled, noted Mr. Nawawi.

The TCC has placed additional staff at its centres in Amman and the other governorates which will remain open from eight a.m. until three p.m. to cope with the large number of subscribers rushing to pay their bills with the one week allowed, said the TCC chief.

### Malhas inspects conditions in several Amman areas

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Health Abdul Rahim Malhas Sunday toured several areas in Amman to inspect health conditions and services.

The minister's tour, which took him to Ras Al Ain, Abdoun, Hai Nazzal and Al Qasimia areas, follows a similar visit by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent. Dr. Malhas inspected waste water leaking from houses and garbage disposal

sites and said that garbage accumulation in the Abdoun valley might lead to epidemics.

Saying that although it was not the direct responsibility of his ministry, Dr. Malhas pointed out that it would help get rid of pollutants which might cause health problems.

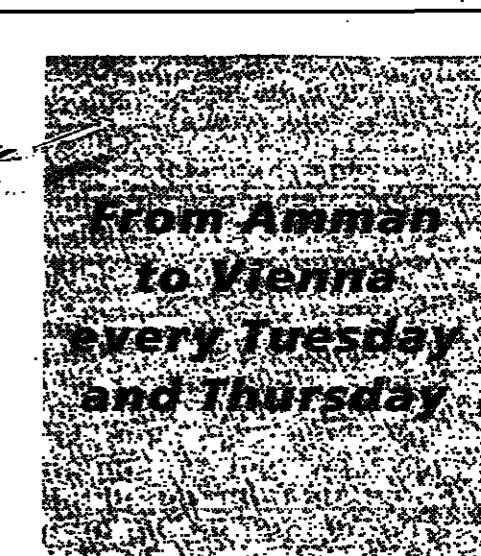
The minister attributed the problem to the haphazard way these popular houses were built in the Abdoun valley.

### RJ visits PIA offices in Karachi

A delegation from Royal Jordanian headed by His Excellency Mahmoud Jamal Balqez, president and chief executive officer of Royal Jordanian visited PIA Pakistan International Airlines head office in Karachi accompanied by Mr. Zaeem Aziz Qureshi, country manager PIA, Jordan. On this occasion, managing director PIA, air Vice Marshal Omar Farooq received them warmly.

and welcomed them at PIA head office.

The Royal Jordanian delegation said that the purpose of this visit was to further enhance and strengthen the existing brotherly relations between the two countries and to explore all aspects of coordination and cooperation between the two airlines in various fields.



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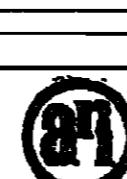
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# Opinion & Analysis

## Jordan Times

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## retext worse than guilt

PRESIDENT BILL Clinton campaigned for the White House with a promise of change: The American economy would improve, Americans would have more jobs, better standards of living, a new American era of wealth and prosperity. But all these remained promises and the popularity of the "incredible shrinking president" hit alarming lows. There is little he can do to implement his domestic agenda, so the embattled Clinton decided to bomb Iraq in a bid to boost his image at home.

The reason behind Sunday's American missile attack on Iraq cannot possibly be Iraq's alleged plot to assassinate former U.S. President George Bush. To start with, no American court has ruled that Baghdad was guilty of masterminding the "plot" against Bush. And even if U.S. jurisprudence or political gurus allow that kind of determination to stand, America cannot be the judge and the executioner at the same time.

The second point that makes the attack against Iraq unjustifiable is, or should be, closely related to the trial of the suspects in the World Trade Centre bombing. U.S. officials often speak about connections between the alleged bombers and Iran. Why has Washington not retaliated against that state already?

With this in mind, it is unfortunate that a new and open-minded president, like Clinton, should allow himself to be cornered by domestic challenges and surrender his policy-making process on Iraq to hard-line advisors who prefer guns and the use of force to a peaceful, definitely more productive approach.

President Clinton seems to have failed to understand what his predecessor also would not acknowledge: Violence is not going to solve the problem in the Arab Gulf.

There were two major victims to Sunday's attack: The Iraqi people and America's credibility in the region. Neither could afford to suffer more.

The Iraqi people have for long been subjected to consequences of a policy on which they have no say. They did not participate in planning the alleged plot on Mr. Bush just like they were not consulted on the decision to invade Kuwait.

That the United States knows but ignores this fact is a sad story indeed. Worse still, America is adding to the ordeal of this people by denying them their basic right to lifting the trade embargo, and bombing their cities at will.

President Clinton should stop punishing the victim, and his country should start acting like the world leader it is supposed to be. Double standards will not do. The Americans cannot bomb Iraq for what it allegedly planned to do while they tolerate the terror that the Serbs are inflicting upon Muslim Bosnians, for example. The Americans cannot justify that Iraq is being punished for violating Security Council resolutions while denying that the Serbs, the Israelis, the Turks are doing the same thing. Unless cruise missiles are going to hit these countries very soon the Americans cannot be the angels and the guardians of the new world order that the world has hoped for.

## ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AL RA'I Arabic daily Sunday welcomed a tour of the Middle East region by U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher if the tour is aimed at giving some momentum to the hitherto unfruitful Arab-Israeli peace negotiations. Reports from Washington said that Mr. Christopher will next month make shuttle visits to the capitals of the Middle East region with a view to stimulating work towards the establishment of peace and security, said the paper. We of course welcome such moves because they indicate that Washington is truly concerned about the process and is willing to play the role of full partner in the peace talks, said the daily. But what remains to be seen, added the daily, is whether Washington is committed to also help implement U.N. Security Council resolutions 242 and 338 and help the Arabs and the Israelis exchange land for peace because these are basic requirements, for the attainment of a just settlement, continued the daily. It said that the status of Jerusalem should essentially be included in the peace talks if the current negotiations are to achieve any progress. The American administration ought to take into consideration Arab rights in Jerusalem and ought to put an end to Israel's intransigence and its threats to withdraw from the talks if the Arabs continued to insist on discussing Jerusalem, demanded the paper. But, added the paper, if the coming U.S. secretary of state's visit is aimed at putting pressure on the Palestinians to give up their demand that Jerusalem be placed on the agenda, then his mission is bound to end in total failure.

AL DUSTOUR cast a pessimistic look at the ongoing peace talks in Washington, noting that the two weeks of negotiations ended in a deadlock. No progress has been achieved towards a lasting settlement on any of the tracks, largely due to Israel's intransigent position and Washington's failure to live up to its commitment and promises to play the role of active partner in the talks, said the daily. Perhaps the Israeli delegation is not authorised to go deeper into discussions on matters of substance and therefore the Israeli government is to be regarded responsible for any failure towards attaining a settlement with the Arab parties, continued the daily. It is clear to the world that the peace talks are moving round in circles and it is futile for the American secretary of state, Warren Christopher, to visit the region to discuss means of stimulating the peace negotiations if the Israelis are not yet ready for efforts for serious efforts to arrive at peace.

## Weekly Political Pulse

By Waleed Sadi

### HUMAN RIGHTS CONFERENCE

## Successful to what extent?

NOW THAT the World Conference on Human Rights is over, the big question that remains is whether it was worth the money and effort poured into it. On balance, the Vienna meeting did not produce anything dramatic in the field of human rights. The tug-of-war between the various groupings of nations that attended it left little room for a real breakthrough.

In many ways the international conference resembled a rope with two major camps pulling in different and opposing directions. With the Asian group on the one side and the western group on the other, the Latin American and African countries were caught in between, leaning towards one side on some issues and towards the other side on others. The biggest fear was that the gathering would end up in a fiasco, with nothing to show for. Yet at the end, there was a final declaration, dubbed as the Vienna Declaration, when at the outset few expected it to happen.

The biggest anxiety from the human rights point of view was whether the bare minimum of human rights as revealed and enshrined in the Universal Declaration on Human Rights of 1948 would be preserved. The central theme of that international pronouncement was the universality of human rights predicated on the proposition that there are certain basic human rights that all states must promote and protect no matter what their cultural or economic peculiarities are. The 1948 declaration was conceived and promulgated by a mere 54 states, members of the United Nations back in 1948, hardly a number that would suggest a universal adoption. Now there are more than 180 states in the world and had they backed up on the Universal Declaration of 1948, it would have been a major retreat for the cause of human

rights. This did not happen.

Some 170 countries took part in the Vienna meetings, buttressed by no less than hundreds of non-governmental organisations from all corners of the world. When they concluded their deliberations late Friday evening, they endorsed a declaration which enshrined the 1948 declaration. The original fear that the new international community would not even honour the 1948 declaration did not happen. If anything, the Vienna Declaration consolidated the Universal Declaration on Human Rights and extended its scope by elucidating even more the interrelations between civil and political rights on one hand, and the economic, social and cultural rights on the other.

The concept of indivisibility won the day when the western nations did not yield to the arguments of the poorer nations of the world that there is an inescapable link between the various dimensions of human rights. To this extent at least the Vienna conference was a success even though there were hardly any new dramatic breakthroughs on the need to have an international human rights court or on the idea of elevating the post of the international ombudsman on human rights within the United Nations system.

It is no secret that there are still several states in the world that are afraid of human rights and had resorted to all sorts of tactics to derail the Vienna momentum. Such states did not carry the day and were truly isolated by the greater majority of countries. The notion of absolute sovereignty, a mainstay of the states hostile to the cause of human rights, was resoundingly defeated and silenced forever. To this extent also, the Vienna conference was a big success.

## Saudi Arabia and the 'Islamic threat'

Following is an editorial that appeared in the June 11, 1993 issue of the London-based *Mid-East International*.

AT A time when the western world still shows a growing tendency to identify mainstream Islam with extremism, the notion is becoming increasingly untenable. This is especially true of the Arab World. Thirty years ago it was the supposedly secularist Arabs — the Nasserists and Ba'thists — who were seen as the danger; the more conservative Muslim regimes were considered non-revolutionary, profoundly anti-Soviet and therefore trusted allies of the West. The truth was always more complex, but today the confusion is greater.

There are several reasons why this should be so. Nasserism, Ba'thism and Communism are no longer threats to western interests in the Middle East whereas militant Islam — whether in the Maghreb, Sudan, Levant or Iran — most clearly is. (Iraq, while still nominally Ba'thist, is better described as Saddamist and it raised the banner of extremist Islam during the Gulf crisis). Israel adds its influential voice to assert that Islamic fundamentalism is now a world threat to justify its claim to be protecting the Middle East against it. Yet what is happening in the Islamic heartland of the Arabian Peninsula should at least give food for thought.

That one of the Arab World's leading left-wing secularist writers, the Egyptian Lutfi Al Kholy, should be invited to Saudi Arabia, where he has long been regarded as anathema, to give a series of public lectures attended by Saudi princes is surprising enough, but that he should be able to suggest in them that there are elements of Arab civilisation which lie outside Islam is cause

for astonishment. This means no less than that the Saudi authorities are prepared to confront Islamic extremism not only as a physical threat but as an ideological or political challenge and to seek allies outside Arabia in the process.

In the past the question whether Islam and Arabism are compatible was stifled by the simple contention that they are identical. This will no longer do. Militant Islam not only de-

mine them by denouncing their moderation and softness towards the West, is trying to rebuild its economy with western help. (Colonel Qaddafi also attacks them while making his own overtures to the West but his eccentricities can probably be ignored; he is, after all, unique in being a secularist and Islamic extremist at the same time).

King Fahd, who always speaks with caution, has made his own

with exceptionally harsh arrogance.

One of the most important implications will be for Saudi relations with the Palestinians, and Hamas in particular. This is a delicate and complex matter — like Saudi relations with the warring Mujahideen groups in Afghanistan. Saudi Arabia has given help to Hamas in the past and, despite some attempts at reconciliation, there is no love lost between any of the Gulf states and the PLO leadership. But Iran also supports Islamic militancy in Palestine while Saudi Arabia fully endorses the peace process.

The dilemma may not be as great as might appear. Most of the Hamas leaders say that they are not opposed to peace or even the recognition of Israel as such but only to the U.S.-sponsored peace negotiations which so favour Israel. Their chief quarrel is with the Tunis-based PLO leadership; they can and do cooperate with Fatah in the occupied territories. There is a problem for Saudi diplomacy but it is not insurmountable.

King Fahd does have a real problem in his reliance on his U.S. friends to exert the right kind of pressure on the peace process. Here the signs are discouraging — not so much because of the Clinton administration's pro-Israel bias, although this is serious enough, but the growing indications that the U.S. is truly intent on a cost-cutting withdrawal from the problems of world leadership. If this means the abdication of Washington's role in the Middle East peace process, it will be disastrous for Arab and Muslim moderates and a triumph for the extremists. As always, the U.S. bears a large share of responsibility for the growth of the very Islamic threat it claims to

time.

It is high time for us to stand up

wittingly to ascribe due recognition to the finer aspects of the endeavours of those astute from among our leaders, particularly the Hashemites, with respect to their political sagacity, foresightedness and deep commitment to national and pan-Arab issues.

It behoves us to point out in

this context that in their efforts to

refashion their countries on

national foundations, the Hashemites proceeded with caution.

Keeping their eyes fastened not so

much on what is purely desirable,

but rather on what could in practice be achieved in the light of

prevailing conditions, they have

always tried their best to avoid

any steps suggestive of adventurism,

while realising at the same

time the importance of transfer-

ing the energies of underdevel-

oped, discordant and self-keep-

ing societies they came to

rule into modern and harmonious

states. Unfortunately, this was

not always viewed at the start as

something actuated by sheer devo-

tion to the interest of their peo-

ple but by their endeavour to

lay the base for the power of their

own family even as they were in

the war of 1948.

The peoples of the Middle

East, and indeed those of the

world are gripped and excited by

the prospect of a regional trans-

formation along the path of a

desirable, just and lasting peace.

In fact one may quite confidently

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## Crime wave, economic pressure cripple spirit of uprising

By Nicolas B. Tatro  
The Associated Press

**YATTA, Occupied West Bank**  
"Good reward," an ad in the daily Al Quds promises anyone who can help find a 1985 Renault 5 compact car stolen in Ramallah.

Scores of cars turn up stripped and abandoned along barren stretches of road outside Yatta, 50 kilometres south of Jerusalem. The town of 40,000 does a booming business in stolen auto parts and ancient artifacts from illegal digs.

Drug abuse, burglary, even kidnappings are other aspects of a crime wave that has shocked Palestinians.

Many blame the mass unemployment created by Israel's banning of Palestinian workers last March and the end of aid to the PLO by the Arab oil states, in-

cluding \$200 million a year for the occupied West Bank and Gaza.

Yosef Faris, spokesman for Israel's West Bank police force, acknowledged a "noticeable increase" in burglary, car theft and assault, but attributed it in part to Palestinians feeling freer to report crimes to Israeli authorities.

Mohammad Abu Ram, a Yatta brick-maker, said most workers in the town used to have construction jobs in Israel.

"So now they steal cars and antiquities," said Mr. Abu Ram, 36, seated on a yellow plastic chair in a garage, next to a pair of Suburu transmissions.

Little can be done, he said, because no one has money or jobs to offer. Even the activists of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) complain of not being paid.

"You can't stop the whole town and you can't act against

hungry people," said Mr. Abu Ram, who spent six months in jail in 1988 for "incitement" on behalf of Yasser Arafat's Fatah faction of the PLO.

Palestinians preying on Palestinians is a sharp contrast to the spirit of togetherness in the early years of the intifada, the uprising against Israeli rule that began in December 1987. Palestinians formed "popular committees" to help the needy, organise boycotts and demonstrations, plant community vegetable gardens and punish those who committed crimes or collaborated with Israel.

The drug problem is highly visible. In an alley across from the old city of Jerusalem's landmark Damascus Gate is a meeting place for dealers. People smoke hashish in the streets.

Sari Nusseibeh, a senior political adviser to Palestinian peace negotiators, called it a symptom of social problems created by sometimes brutal efficiency, killing drug dealers, pimps and informers.

To date, 734 Palestinians have been killed by other Palestinians, compared to 1,122 slain by Israelis.

Warnings are still spray-painted on walls, such as "The Fatah hawks will punish drug dealers severely" on the town hall in Bethany, the West Bank town where the Bible says Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead. But they no longer seem to carry the old punch.

The drug problem is highly visible. In an alley across from the old city of Jerusalem's landmark Damascus Gate is a meeting place for dealers. People smoke hashish in the streets.

Palestinians are beginning to ignore strike calls distributed in leaflets and written on walls. Stores and restaurants stay open late in some areas. Weddings and parties are held. People complain publicly.

If the peace talks fail, he said, "we might have an outburst of violence that could take a variety of forms, both against Israelis and against each other."

In an interview at Orient House, the seat of the emerging Palestinian shadow government, Mr. Nusseibeh criticised the underground leadership. He called for an end to the strikes and boycotts that weakened the Palestinian economy and led to joblessness and crime.

"We haven't done anything with the intifada," he said. "It's totally lost the direction it used to have."

Palestinians are beginning to ignore strike calls distributed in leaflets and written on walls. Stores and restaurants stay open late in some areas. Weddings and parties are held. People complain publicly.

Mr. Nusseibeh proposed working around the clock instead of striking.

"The leadership needs to be more sensitive to the needs and changes, and should be courageous like it was in the beginning of the intifada," he said. "I think the time will come when people will just stop obeying those instructions by themselves. It will seem too silly."

Israel has proposed "early empowerment," allowing Palestinians to take over aspects of

day-to-day government from the Israeli army even before an interim settlement at the peace talks.

One such area would be internal security, and 37 Palestinians went to Jordan in mid-June to study police procedure.

In Yatta, Mr. Abu Ram said he would welcome creation of a Palestinian police force and has tried to get his 19-year-old son on the list of candidates.

"We are not against early empowerment of the police," he said. "We want a police force, but the PLO has to be involved and in charge."

Israel and the Palestinians appear to be near compromise on

the issue of Palestinian police but remain at odds over Israel's demand that its forces retain exclusive policing power over 120,000 Jewish settlers in the occupied lands.

In the northern town of Nablus, Hussam Hijawi, secretary of the Chamber of Commerce, said Israeli authorities had approved formation of a guard committee to oversee 24-hour unarmed street patrols.

"Every day, we have people coming to our office and saying their shops were robbed or their cars were stolen," he said, "but we haven't been able to do anything for these people until now because it is a police job."

## Street life, night life: East Berlin wakes up

By Larry Thorson  
The Associated Press

ler.

Roland Mary said the street in front of his hit restaurant Borchardt used to be deserted.

"There were no people on the street, no cars, but we knew from the beginning that customers would come from the West," said Mr. Mary. He and two other restaurant owners from Western Berlin opened Borchardt in March 1992 at 47 Franzoesisches-Trasse.

The long-lunch crowd enjoys a high-ceilinged room restored to the 1920s look of the original Borchardt, one of Europe's leading restaurants and caterers. In the evening, a knot of people may be waiting at the door, hoping for tables.

Isherwood probably could not afford Borchardt in the 1920s, when he caroused in Berlin's dives.

Now, as then, there are centres of night life on both sides of the city.

Western Berlin has the "golden mile" of Kurfuerstendamm area. It offers discos, restaurants ranging from reasonable to blindingly expensive, and night clubs for all sexual preferences.

One of the bars, Kumpelnest 3000, attracts "chic punk women, bright boys in white jeans and

quiet Don Juans in tuxedos who regard the plush contact bar as their living room," Stern magazine commented.

In the east, Oranienburgerstrasse became a funky hit in summer 1992. A new book calls it the "geile meile," or "lecherous mile," and the curious come from around the world.

The Oranienburger area is near two nightspots that operated even in the drab years: Die Distel (the thistle) where political satire reigns, and FriedrichstadtPalast, featuring nearly nude dancers in Paris-style revues.

On a recent Saturday night, a half-dozen shirtless Britons with guitars lounged at the corner of Friedrichstrasse. They were drinking beer and arguing about where to go.

Maybe to the Oscar Wilde, an Irish bar that celebrated its second birthday May 30 and often has live music. Or to Obst und Gemuese (fruit and vegetables), Verkehrsberuhigte Ostzone (slow-traffic east zone) or one of the other whimsically named bars where students talk earnestly and often spill onto the sidewalk, beers in hand.

Oranienburger was a brothel district in the 1920s, cheek by jowl with the centre of Jewish life

in Berlin, and has become so again.

By day, tourists admire the new synagogue and take somber walking tours of the old Jewish quarter. By night, Oranienburgerstrasse is jammed with pub crawlers, voyeurs ogling scantily clad prostitutes, carloads of teenagers from Western Berlin howling at the whores.

It also holds the heart of the counterculture, an old department store that looks as if allied bombers hit it last month, not in 1943. The semi-ruin is called Tacheles, Yiddish for "brass tacks" or "straight talk."

Three months after the Berlin Wall came down, squatters created Tacheles for artists who had been suppressed in Communist East Germany. The real estate has become fabulously valuable, so the former squatters propose to renovate the ruin and erect a commercial building behind it that will support the cultural activities.

"We want to run it without subsidy, to keep the spirit and make art for everybody," said Jochen Sandig, 25, a leader of Tacheles, which seeks to be a "cultural base of a modern, open-to-the-world metropolis between

East and West Europe."

In the Tacheles "sculpture garden" are a bus half-buried in sand, pieces of MiG fighters and figures welded together from scrap. On a Tacheles stage, a young man wearing only briefs and boots, his body painted in fluorescent colours, played guitar chords and made noises into a microphone.

Eastern Berlin is the main venue for the drug-soaked technomusic scene, which often happens in one of the many abandoned factories.

"The band is the hammer and the crowd is the anvil," said a review of a recent techno-event. It did not say whether anyone survived.

A quieter scene is available in the Prenzlauer Berg neighbourhood, where squatters took over a building and created Cafe Westphal as a place for artists to let off steam.

"After a while, many curious people came from the West, so it's a good mixture of the public," said Dirk Happe, one of the communal staff.

Prenzlauer Berg claims to be a centre of east-west talk on the eastern side of united Berlin. One of its many new cafes is called Blabla.

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ELECTRONIC STATISTICAL TABLES (EXCEL)	3/7 - 8/7	8.30 - 11.30	WINDOWS
WORD PROCESSING (MS-WORD)	3/7 - 8/7	11.30 - 2.30	WINDOWS
OPERATING SYSTEMS (DOS-WINDOWS)	3/7 - 8/7	3.30 - 6.30	—
OPERATING SYSTEMS (DOS-WINDOWS)	10/7 - 15/7	8.30 - 11.30	—
ELECTRONIC STATISTICAL TABLES (EXCEL)	10/7 - 15/7	11.30 - 2.30	WINDOWS
LOCAL AREA NETWORKS (NOVELL)	10/7 - 15/7	3.30 - 6.30	MS-DOS
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OPERATING SYSTEMS (DOS-WINDOWS)	17/7 - 22/7	11.30 - 2.30	—
ELECTRONIC STATISTICAL TABLES (EXCEL)	17/7 - 22/7	3.30 - 6.30	WINDOWS
WORD PROCESSING (MS-WORD)	24/7 - 29/7	8.30 - 11.30	WINDOWS
ELECTRONIC STATISTICAL TABLES (EXCEL)	24/7 - 29/7	11.30 - 2.30	WINDOWS
OPERATING SYSTEMS (DOS-WINDOWS)	24/7 - 29/7	3.30 - 6.30	—

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## U.S., Japan remain world top borrowers

PARIS (AFP) — The United States and Japan remained the top two borrowers on world capital markets in the first four months of the year, but Germany and France overtook Britain to nearly catch up with Japanese borrowers, the OECD indicated Sunday.

U.S.-based borrowing rose to \$31.7 billion, from \$27.3 billion in the January-April period of 1992, while Japan raised \$21.9 billion, slightly down from a year-earlier level of \$22.6 billion, the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) said in a survey of financial market trends.

Germany's private and public sector borrowing shot up by 17.1 per cent year-on-year to \$19.8 billion in January-April, from a modest year-earlier \$7.3 billion. This equalled 70 per cent of total German 1992 borrowing.

France boosted its external market borrowing by 52 per cent to \$19.7 billion from \$13 billion in the same period of 1992. Its intake of just under \$20 billion during the first four months equalled almost half the \$42.5 billion raised abroad by French borrowers in 1992 as a whole.

Italy, at \$14.1 billion, also recorded a hefty percentage increase from the \$7.9 billion it borrowed in January-April 1992.

Britain was the only major borrower to record a year-on-year decline, raising \$14.2 billion against \$19.3 billion in the first four months of last year.

The OECD ranking list of top 1992 borrowers put the Group of Seven countries in the lead: United States \$95 billion, Japan \$75.5 billion, Britain \$70.9 billion, France \$42.5 billion, Canada \$30.2 billion, Germany \$28.4 billion and Italy \$15.1 billion.

**Opponents of Romanian-Greek shipping deal turn their guns on Iliescu**

BUCHAREST (R) — Critics trying to scupper the multimillion-dollar sale of Romania's merchant fleet to Greek interests have turned their guns on President Ion Iliescu and demanded the punishment of senior reform officials.

President Iliescu defended the arrangement whereby the Piraeus-based Greek shipping group Forum Maritime S.A. would get a 51 per cent stake in Petromin S.A., Romania's largest shipping company, in a \$355 million deal.

The deal has spawned a growing political scandal, with national newspapers and some former cabinet ministers calling it an irresponsible act of betrayal and a rip-off.

## Study sees uncertainty in future oil market

ABU DHABI (AFP) — Growing world environmental concern is expected to create uncertainty in the oil market as it will make it more difficult to predict demand, according to a Gulf study.

But the study by Majid Al Munif of Saudi Arabia's King Saud University said it expected environmental protection measures by industrial nations to depress oil demand by around 1.5 million barrels per day (b/d) by the year 2000.

"Looking into the oil market prospects, we can see it is beset with uncertainty because of the surrounding challenges," said the study, which was presented to a regional economic symposium in Riyadh last week.

"The biggest challenge is the environment issue, which is expected to affect the oil market directly or indirectly," it pointed out.

The European Community has cited environmental concerns for its proposal to impose a carbon

tax of \$3 of each imported barrel of oil, to rise gradually to \$10 by the year 2000. The United States, another major oil importer, also plans to impose a tax of \$3.5 to cut crude imports.

The proposals have drawn sharp criticism by oil producers, mainly Gulf states which argue the taxes would hit demand and depress their income.

Without such taxes, the six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) will produce 17 million b/d by the year 2000 and 22 million b/d by 2010, said the study.

"In case there is a change in demand, which is expected in the light of the energy taxes, then demand for OPEC oil will fall by 1.5 million b/d by the year 2000 and 2.2 million b/d by the year 2010. This will affect the expected production by the GCC countries," it said.

GCC states — Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and non-OPEC

Oman and Bahrain — currently produce around 13 million b/d or nearly one fifth of the total world crude output. Their reserves also account for around 40 per cent of the world's about one trillion barrels.

Most of them have embarked on costly projects to boost their oil production capacity to meet a rise in demand for OPEC's oil, which has been forecast at between 34 million and 37 million barrels a day by the year 2000.

"Capacity expansion is another challenge facing the oil market as this depends on the ability to make accurate forecasts about demand, which is becoming complicated due to environmental restrictions," the study said.

"Such restrictions will slow down demand and it could further decline if more restrictions are imposed. A large surplus in capacity could negatively affect the oil market as was the case during the first half of 1980s," the study concluded.

## Foreign companies leaving S. Korea despite liberalisation

SEOUL (AFP) — Despite South Korea's much-touted anti-corruption and liberalisation campaigns, foreign firms are pulling out at an even faster pace, economists and businessmen say.

The number of foreign-invested firms leaving the country increased from 20 in 1988 to 52 last year, the Korean Economic Policy Institute (KIEP) said. Between 1962 and 1992, a total of 484 companies pulled out, taking about \$1.27 billion in investment with them.

Despite a net increase in foreign-invested firms here, many foreign businesses find the prevailing corruption, bureaucratic maze and declining competitiveness too much to handle.

A KIEP official said 234 firms with \$800 million in investment entered the Korean market last

year, down from 286 companies worth \$1.3 billion in 1991. There are currently 2,461 foreign-invested companies operating here.

Yu Chang-Hee, head of KIEP, said in a newspaper article that one of the reasons for the withdrawal is a longstanding anti-foreign streak running through Korean society which makes it hard for foreigners to conduct business.

Long known as the "Hermit Kingdom," Korea still prides itself on its homogeneous society and its tough-minded self-reliance in a region dominated by the big powers of China, Russia and Japan.

Skyrocketing labour costs and frequent strikes, tight credit, strict policy on land ownership by foreigners and limits on retail

selling are also prompting foreigners to pull out, economists say.

On the wage front alone, the average salary has soared from 334,000 won a month in 1987 to 1,125,000 won last year, according to official figures.

Masao Nishimura, commercial attaché at the Japanese embassy, said another reason Japanese firms have led the rush in the past five years — 87 compared to 49 U.S. firms — was that Korean manufacturers were buying components from South East Asia.

Although the recently installed government of President Kim Young-Sam has launched a sweeping anti-corruption campaign and will shortly announce the details of a five-year economic liberalisation plan, many foreign businessmen are skeptical.

Programmed for the year 2000.

## Portugal to link up with Algeria gas pipelines

ALGIERS (R) — Portugal is to buy 2.5 billion cubic metres of natural gas a year from Algeria, rising later to five billion, official sources said Sunday.

The two countries will sign an agreement next Thursday in the Portuguese capital for the gas to be supplied through the pipeline now being built between North Africa and Spain.

The agreement follows the collapse of an accord for Portugal to buy 2.1 billion cubic metres a year of liquefied natural gas under a contract signed last year between Algeria's Sonatrach and a European consortium headed by Portugal's Natgas.

This was to have started flowing from 1997 via the port of Setubal, in southern Portugal. But the deal collapsed when the French partner in the consortium, Gaz de France, refused to sign the agreement, Algeria's official news agency APS said.

Portugal's Energy Minister Luis Mira Amiral said last month: "Supplies through the Maghreb pipeline are the most rapid and economic way of having natural gas in 1996."

Early this month, APS reported from Brussels that the European Commission had decided partly to finance a pipeline between Spain and Portugal.

Work started last month on the 2.5 billion pipeline to carry gas from Algeria's giant Hassi R'Mel via Morocco to Seville and Cordoba in Spain.

It is due to come on stream in 1995. In the first stage, the 1,370 kilometre pipeline will have an annual capacity of 10 billion cubic feet, eventually rising to 20 billion.

Last month, Abdul Hak Bouhas, director-general of the state energy firm Sonatrach, said Algeria had almost certain commitments to sell an annual 57 billion to 58 billion cubic metres of gas out of a ceiling of 60 billion

programmed for the year 2000.

## Ghana's reforms rewarded with boost in Western aid

Planning Minister Kweisi Botchway, who headed the country's delegation to the meeting, echoed the IMF and Bank textbooks when he said the next phase of the government's economic programme included such salient features as restoring economic stability, boosting the private sector and speeding up privatisation of public enterprises.

It said this would "significantly" exceed the \$1.7 billion indicated by the (World) Bank as the minimum level needed to meet Ghana's import requirements over the two years.

The statement said the higher-than-projected aid estimates "will permit Ghana to rebuild its stock of international reserves, which were drawn last year in the face of shortfalls in external assistance and a decline in cocoa prices."

Consultative Group members meeting were Brazil, Britain, Canada, Denmark, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the Netherlands, Switzerland and the United States. International institutions present included the African Development Bank, the Bretton Woods institutions and several United Nations agencies, as well as the Kuwait Fund and the OPEC Fund for International Development.

A statement issued by the World Bank on behalf of the

## Indian garment exporters seeking new markets

share in countries with import quotas by increasing exports of non-restricted items such as baby clothes and industrial uniforms.

Exports to European Community members and the United States have hit the saturation point and one official of the government's Apparel Export Promotion Council (AEPIC) acknowledged that Indians were even "exporting more than our entitlements."

Garments are India's highest foreign exchange earner. Garments are trying to expand their market

## Prague plans to keep control of Pilsner

PRAGUE (R) — The Czech government plans to retain control of the renowned Pilsner Urquell beer by merging two Plzen-based breweries and then holding a managing interest, a Czech newspaper has reported. Under proposals adopted by a council of economic ministers, the state-run Plzenske Prazdroj brewery,

which produces Urquell, would be privatised and merged with Plzenske Pivovary, a joint-stock company with a 67 per cent interest held by Czech investment funds, the daily Hospodarske Noviny reported. The government would retain an interest in the new company, which ministers referred to as "golden shares," allowing the state to intervene in major decisions.

The fate of Prazdroj has come under intense scrutiny since a senior agriculture ministry official said earlier this month that the company was on the verge of bankruptcy and was being run into the ground by current management.

Petromin has 106 vessels of about 4.6 million deadweight tonnes and holds the bulk of Romania's merchant fleet.

Imports fetched \$2.3 billion in 1991, \$2.8 billion in 1992 and are running at a record pace this year.

But determined competition from China, Hong Kong, South Korea, Taiwan and fast-emerging Indonesia has dealt a heavy blow to Indian exporters in recent years, AEPIC officials said.

Although China is the largest garment exporter in the Third World, Indian exporters now see Indonesia as their biggest threat.

## HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR MONDAY JUNE 28, 1993

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Let your actions be above reproach now or you could lose prestige and the favour of higher-ups as the Scorpio Moon-trines Saturn and the Sun. Show your strength of character, determination and honesty.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Don't try to push those personal plans you feel are so vital to your progress early and later steer clear of some tensions over money matters.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Look into ways to improve whatever activities you engage in this morning, apo tonight, some conditions come into the open requiring careful attention.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) This is the day for you to accept some restrictions you do not like and wait for a better time to handle it and later don't try to force others for what you want.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) An acquaintance can be a pain in the neck early in the day so sidestep this individual while in the evening you need to soothe a hurt attachment.

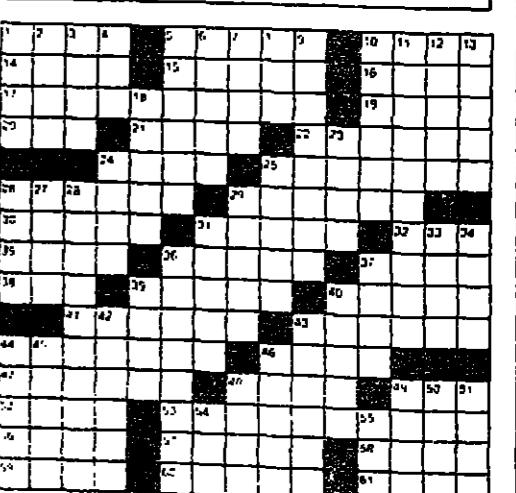
MOON CHILDREN: (July 21) Whatever you have in mind of a worldly nature needs careful second thoughts to avoid making mistakes while later personal aims need study.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) New interests can be disappointing in the morning while tonight outside vocational interests require more than usual astuteness in handling.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) You find business matters are not likely to be correct.

## THE Daily Crossword

by Matthew Higgins



COMPANY'S NAME	TRADED	PREV.	OPENING	CLOSING	PRICE
	JD	PRICE	PRICE	PRICE	PRICE
ARM BANK	56,931	174.250	176.000	172.500	172.500
BANK OF JORDAN	312,512	4.770	4.770	4.770	4.770
BANK OF JORDAN	30,470	4.770	4.770	4.770	4.770
MIDDLE EAST INVESTMENT BANK	13,480	1.990	2.020	2.090	2.090
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BANK	1,000	1.000	1.000	1.000	1.000
INDIAN BANK	30,600	6.000	6.000	6.000	6.000
ARMAS JORDAN INVESTMENT BANK	533,431	3.130	3.170	3.190	3.190
JORDAN ISLAMIC BANK	4,070	4.070	4.080	4.080	4.080
UNIFORM BANK FOR SAVING & INVESTMENT	88,854	5.800	5.800	5.800	5.800
JORDAN INVESTMENT & FINANCE BANK	10,340	4.530	4.530	4.530	4.530
ARMAS BANK FOR SAVING & INVESTMENT FOR HOUSING	112,566	5.010	5.200	5.080	5.080
ARMAS BANKING CORPORATION/JORDAN	1,275	7.400	7.400	7.400	7.400
PHILADELPHIA INVESTMENT BANK	104,034	1.880	1.910	1.870	1.870
ARMAS BANKING CORPORATION/JORDAN	3,584	5.070	5.000	5.000	5.000
ARMAS BANKING CORPORATION/JORDAN	3,125	4.400	4.220	4.250	4.250
ARMAS LIFE & ACCIDENT INSURANCE	24,243	3.920	3.000	3.950	3.950
ARMAS LIFE & ACCIDENT INSURANCE	13,725	3.920	3.920	3.920	3.920
TRUSS DISTRICT ELECTRICITY	403,418	2.690	2.680	2.700	2.700
ARMAS INTERNATIONAL HOTELS	130,602	1.480	1.480	1.480	1.480
JORDAN TOURISM & SPA COMPLEX	3,555	2.270	2.280	2.300	2.300
NATIONAL PORTFOLIO SECURITIES	77,342	0.520	0.520	0.520	0.520
JORDAN GULF REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT	9,520	1.740	1.750	1.740	1.740
PETRA ENTERPRISES & EQUIPMENT LEASING	2,195	0.810	0.800	0.810	0.810
JORDAN INDUSTRIAL TRADING CENTER	1,075	1.070	1.070	1.070	1.070
JORDAN PRESS FOUNDATION & AL-AIN	16,788	15.200	15.200	15.200	15.200
JORDAN PRESS & PUBLISHING (AD-DUSTUR)	12,000	1.000	1.000	1.000	1.000
UNITED HOTEL & COMMERCIAL HOTELS	63,781	2.380	2.340	2.330	2.330
ARMAS INVESTMENT & EDUCATION	15,255	2.900	2.900	2.900	2.900
JORDAN CEMENT FACTORIES	12,158	2.890	2.910	2.880	2.880
JORDAN CEMENT FACTORIES	4,450	4.450	4.450	4.450	4.450
THE ARAB POTASH	21,903	11.700	11.700	11.600	11.600
JORDAN PETROLEUM REFINERY	1,000	1.000	1.000	1.000	1.000
THE JORDAN MONSTER MILLS	34,620	8.120	8.300	8.300	8.300
ARMAS PHARMACEUTICAL MANUFACTURING	1,000	1.000	1.000	1.000	1.000
ARMAS PHARMACEUTICAL INDUSTRIES	258,718	9.190	9.180	9.180	9.180
JORDAN DAIRY	14,953	7.810	7.950	7.870	7.870
THE JORDAN PIPE MANUFACTURING	4,000	2.000	2.000	2.000	2.000
INTERMEDIATE PETRO-CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES	84,034	4.230	4.230	4.240	4.240
JORDAN ROCKWOOL INDUSTRIES	2,802	4.670	4.670	4.670	4.670
ARMAS PETRO-CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES	5,040	4.400	4.400	4.400	4.400
DAW AL DAWA DEVELOPMENT & INVESTMENT	6,770	0.620	0.620	0.610	0.610
ARMAS INVESTMENT & INTERNATIONAL TRADE	11,717	21.300	21.300	21.300	21.300
ARMAS PAPER CONSTRUCTION & TRADING	129,068	2.380	2.380	2.380	2.380
JORDAN MEDICAL CORPORATION	25,823	11.850	11.850	11.850	11.850
NATIONAL STEEL INDUSTRIES	149	2.170	2.170	2.170	2.170
ARMAS PETRO-CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES	17,168	5.750	5.700	5.750	5.750
JORDAN ROCKWOOL INDUSTRIES	89,650	0.890	0.890	0.880	0.880
ARMAS PETRO-CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES	10,815	2.750	2.700	2.700	2.700
ALADIN INDUSTRIES & MATCH/JIMCO	3,950	5.000	5.000	5.000	5.000
JORDAN CEMENT & CONCRETE INDUSTRY	2,955	1.180	1.180	1.180	1.180
JORDAN SULPHUR-CHEMICALS	1,415	0.530	0.530	0.530	0.530
ARMAS PETRO-CHEMICALS	27,123	11.700	11.700	11.700	11.700
ARMAS PHARMA. & CHEMICALS	60,903	4.400	4.400	4.400	4.400
ARMAS PETRO-CHEMICALS	66,134	4.200	4.200	4.200	4.200
ARMAS PETRO-CHEMICALS	5,430	1.830	1.830	1.830	1.830
ARMAS PETRO-CHEMICALS	183,025	4.390	4.390	4.390	4.390
GRAND TOTAL	4,523,092				
NO. OF TRADED SHARES IN PARALLEL MARKET	74,700				
TRADED VOLUME IN THE PARALLEL MARKET	1 JD	77,999			

## Kuwaiti premier says graft furore hurting dignity of Sabah family

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwait's prime minister said Saturday a row over billions of dollars lost on investments had hurt the dignity of the ruling Al Sabah family and diverted attention from a danger still posed by former occupier Iraq.

Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah said a "tug-of-war" between the government and the opposition-dominated parliament over how to deal with alleged corrupt management of state investments had weakened Kuwait's defences against its much larger neighbour.

"I know the size of our losses in Spain is between \$5 billion and \$6 billion, but we can recover that," he told parliament in reference to the Iraqi invasion on Aug. 2, 1990.

"The current situation doesn't give us the room to continue this tug-of-war between government and parliament because all of us will eventually pay a very costly bill — the country. What happened on Aug. 2 (1990) might happen again... Saddam (Hussein) still works to fulfil his aggressive plans," he said.

Sheikh Saad was replying to members of parliament who this week accused past and present governments of doing little or nothing to stop years of misconduct within the emirate's worldwide investment empire.

Some of the members, speaking in a debate on investment

losses Tuesday, said the Al Sabah family, which has ruled Kuwait since the mid-18th century, also had questions to answer.

They made some of the strongest anti-government statements heard in parliament since it was revived last October.

Sheikh Saad denied the family was linked to the losses and promised unbiased legal action over any suspected misconduct.

Finance Minister Nasser Abdulla Al Rodhan said Tuesday he was trying to bring to justice three foreign-based former state investment officials suspected of graft and had ordered the seizure of their assets and those of their close relatives.

Two of the three are members of the Al Sabah family.

Sheikh Saad, who is also crown prince, said: "Some of the MPs deviated from parliamentary regulations and said hurtful words and sentences which hurt the reputation and dignity of the ruling family, which has nothing to do with this."

"I don't want to stop anyone dealing with this sensitive topic. I know this is your right. But what makes me unhappy and what really hurts me is accusing people without any proof," he pointed out.

The aluminia in the raw material is around 57 per cent, which would be enough for all the smelters working in the Arab World for 20 years," the London-based paper quoted him as saying.

He said surveys were con-

tinuing in the area around Zubaira with the aim of further increasing the proven reserves of bauxite in the region. Bauxite is the raw material for alumina, which is in turn processed into alumina.

The two Arab aluminium smelters, Alba in Bahrain and Dubai at Dubai in the United Arab Emirates, have a capacity to process 700,000 tonnes of aluminium a year between them. They currently import the bulk of the alumina they need from Australia.

A Gulf Arab industrial agency last month urged investors to back a plan to build a bauxite refining plant in the region which would feed the aluminium smelters.

The report gave no breakdown of the revenues but Saudi Arabia and the other Gulf members had reported earnings of around \$70 billion in 1992.

In 1990, Arab oil revenues, including those of Oman, Yemen and Tunisia, reached their highest level in a decade, standing at \$101.2 billion.

This was due to a sharp increase in oil prices during the Gulf crisis.

Barring a large decline in oil prices, such revenues are ex-

pected to increase in 1993 as Kuwait boosted output to nearly 1.6 million b/d and is planning to pump more in the third quarter, according to Gulf oil sources.

OAPEC's oil earnings remained the main source of income in member states, accounting for nearly 75 per cent of their total exports.

"In most cases, growth in oil export earnings exceed growth in other exports. This shows the importance of oil in the Arab trade balance," it said.

## Huge bauxite reserves said found in S. Arabia

DUBAI (R) — Saudi Arabia has discovered huge bauxite reserves in the north of the kingdom which could supply regional aluminium smelters for the next 20 years, a senior Saudi official was quoted as saying Sunday.

The Saudi-owned newspaper Al Hayat quoted Ibrahim Bin Ahmad Al Khabiri, undersecretary at the Ministry of Petroleum and Mineral Resources, as saying 49 million tonnes of bauxite had been found near Zubaira, 460 kilometres northwest of the capital, Riyadh.

"The aluminia in the raw material is around 57 per cent, which would be enough for all the smelters working in the Arab World for 20 years," the London-based paper quoted him as saying.

He said surveys were con-

## UAE plans new expansion projects in communication

ABU DHABI (AFP) — The United Arab Emirates (UAE) plans to invest more than \$350 million in the next two years to expand its communication sector to meet a growth in demand caused by a business upswing.

The government-owned Etisalat, which had monopolised telecommunication services until it lifted the ban on private firms this year, said the investment would cover telephone, telex and other telegraphic services.

Despite repeated cuts in its services fees, Etisalat's net profits have steadily grown over the past decade. They rose to 1.049 billion dirhams (\$285 million) in 1992 from 914 million dirhams (\$249 million) in 1991 and officials expect a further rise this year.

## JORDAN

## MARKET PLACE

Financial Markets in co-operation with Cairo Amman Bank

### Foreign Exchange Market Summary (June 21 - June 25, 1993)

AMMAN — After a rally to 1,6810 marks at the end of the previous week, the dollar maintained an impressive up-trend against most European currencies, especially the German unit, throughout the week, breaching further technical levels, but it declined sharply against the yen. The U.S. unit, thus ended the week 1.52 per cent higher against the mark, 1.50 per cent higher against sterling and 3.36 per cent lower against the yen.

The dollar moved higher against other major currencies Monday. Traders attributed much of Monday's rise to increasingly bearish sentiment about weakening German economy and political turmoil in Japan.

The dollar continued to appreciate against European currencies Tuesday, but remained unchanged against the yen compared to the previous day. Comments by Bundesbank officials, especially the Bundesbank president, prevented the dollar to move beyond 1.70 mark level. The Bundesbank president was quoted as saying that the bank's primary aim was to curb inflation and that the inflation level in Germany was unacceptable. These comments seemed to have finally convinced market participants that the Bundesbank was not going to lower its official interest rates in the near future.

On Wednesday, the dollar declined sharply against the yen, but only modestly against European currencies, after the release of weaker-than-expected U.S. May durable goods orders. These disappointing figures raised further concerns about the pace of the U.S. economic recovery, but that was largely offset by a New York Times article Wednesday, implying that the Federal Reserve might raise interest rate soon in order to stanch inflation. The dollar fell back also in response to downward revision in estimated first-quarter growth in the U.S. Gross Domestic Product to a 0.7 per cent rise from 0.9 per cent increase reported previously.

The dollar firmed against all European currencies Thursday after the French economic minister raised market expectations for a coordinated cut in European interest rates soon. The minister announced that Germany's Economics Minister Theo Waigel and Bundesbank President Helmut Schlesinger would be coming to Paris for talks on coordinated interest rate reductions in Europe — a meeting that was later postponed. The dollar closed at 1,7073 marks, its highest for the week. On the other hand, the U.S. currency dropped modestly against the yen that day as Japan's political tension appeared to be fading.

The British pound continued to decline against the dollar closing at \$1.4685 Thursday, its lowest level for the week. Sterling weakness was attributed to the uncertain political outcome of the Conservative Party.

## Azeri rebels end insurrection

MOSCOW (Agencies) — Azerbaijani rebels Sunday pledged allegiance to the country's new acting president, ending a month-long insurrection that triggered a political crisis, the Interfax News Agency said.

Under an agreement signed at Baku Sunday by rebel leader Surat Guseinov and the acting president, former Communist Party boss Gidar Aliyev, the renegade troops are to withdraw from positions near the capital city Baku.

Mr. Aliyev said he wanted "to end a confrontation that could lead to a civil war," Interfax said.

The rebellion had forced President Abulaziz Elchibey to flee to his native region of the oil-rich former Soviet republic. Parliament Thursday stripped him of his powers and transferred them temporarily to Mr. Aliyev.

Col. Guseinov had been sacked in February as commander of Azerbaijani forces in the war with Armenia over Nagorno-Karabakh after a series of military setbacks. He blamed Mr. Elchibey himself for his handling of the five-year-old war, and demanded the president's resignation.

The agency said it was possible that Col. Guseinov might receive a post in the Defence or Interior Ministry, or even be named prime minister. Mr. Aliyev started reshuffling his government Saturday.

Mr. Aliyev tightened his control of the Azerbaijani government Saturday by firing three top officials loyal to President

Elchibey.

Several hundred Mr. Elchibey supporters gathered in central Baku, meanwhile, to demand that the president return from his mountain home, where he fled eight days ago when rebels advanced on the capital. Mr. Elchibey has refused to leave his southwestern village until rebel troops surrounding Baku withdraw.

On Saturday night, Mr. Aliyev fired Foreign Minister Tofik Gasimov; the head of state radio and television, Mehmet Ismail; and Arif Rahimzade, who was responsible for territorial policy.

State television, now under control of Aliyev's loyalist Babek Huseynoglu, announced that money for refugees would be paid out, a move that would be very popular.

The 5-year-old war with Armenia over Azerbaijan's ethnic Armenian enclave of Nagorno-Karabakh has turned hundreds of thousands of Azerbaijanis into refugees.

Failure to resolve the fighting in Nagorno-Karabakh was one of the main reasons for a military

rebellion that began in eastern Azerbaijan earlier this month and touched off the country's current political crisis.

Meanwhile, Armenian authorities in Nagorno-Karabakh said Sunday they had repelled a major Azerbaijani offensive against the disputed enclave after several hours of heavy fighting.

The Armenian News Agency, Snark, quoted these authorities, from the enclave's Information Department, as also saying that an undisclosed number of civilians had been killed on wounded Sunday in artillery shelling of Stepanakert, the enclave's main city.

The shells were fired from Agdam, the Azerbaijani town that serves as headquarters for the republic's military forces in the war over Nagorno-Karabakh, the agency said.

The military high command of Nagorno-Karabakh had said Saturday the Azerbaijanis launched a major offensive with ground forces backed by warplanes.

Authorities in Azerbaijan denied there was any such offensive.



Tsumoto Hata (right), representative of the New Birth Party, and Chairman of the Social Democratic Party Sadiq Yamahana Sunday attend a press conference after talks by five opposition leaders on cooperation in the upcoming July 18 elections and the possibility of a coalition government (AFP photo)

## Coalition talks in the wings as Tokyo votes

TOKYO (R) — Tokyo voted Sunday for a new city assembly, a key test of Japanese voter sentiment ahead of July 18 general elections that could sweep the long-ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) from power.

There was a very low turnout early on despite fine, sunny weather and the exceptional political hype surrounding this year's election.

Lord Owen said Mr. Izetbegovic, "He is simply not prepared to make the necessary compromise to save his people. I don't want to see him moved aside, but we can't reach an agreement as long as there is no desire for peace in Sarajevo."

Mr. Gallegos said Zepce, which was described as having been in flames Saturday, was apparently under Croat control — and that it was normally populated by Croats and had an HVO camp nearby.

Croat and Muslim-led government forces clashed with mortar, artillery and small arms fire in a village outside the central town of

Gornji Vakuf, Maj. Gallegos said.

Meanwhile EC mediator Lord Owen has his eye on Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic for refusing to compromise to end the war in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

In an interview with the French Sunday paper *Le Journal de Dimanche* he accused Sarajevo authorities of not wanting peace.

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The idea of following the policies of the conservative LDP is stirring trouble within the Social-ist Party, whose official platform still commits it to such hard-left policies as unconditional support for Stalinist North Korea and abolition of the Japanese military.

Meanwhile, the LDP's most prominent defector, former Finance Minister Tsumoto Hata, held talks with leaders of the established opposition parties on the possibility of forging common policy positions ahead of national elections.

Apart from Mr. Hata, who last week founded the Shinseito (New Birth Party), the meeting was attended by the heads of four parties who say they are ready to join an anti-LDP coalition government.

They comprise the traditional non-Communist opposition — the Socialists, the Buddhist-backed Komeito, the Democratic Socialist Party and the tiny Socialist Democratic Federation.

Two other LDP rebels who recently formed their own groups — Morihiro Hosokawa of the Japan New Party (JNP) and Masayoshi Takemura of Shinto Sakigake (New Harbinger Party) — declined Mr. Hata's invitation to take part.

Kyodo News Agency said the party leaders agreed it would be difficult to reach immediate agreement on forming a coalition and settled for reaffirming their government.

They could draw satisfaction from the fact that some deputies ignored parliament's decision and attended Saturday's session. So did representatives of the oil-rich and independent-minded republic of Katarstan, which had threatened to boycott it.

But the debate highlighted a long-running dispute between Russia's ethnic republics and administrative regions over their respective powers.

Mr. Yeltsin and his aides say they have struck a delicate balance in the constitutional draft defining the 20 ethnic republics as "sovereign states" within Russia while regions are "state-territorial formations."

The president sees the basic law, which would boost his own powers at parliament's expense, as a way to halt the confrontation with Congress and smash resistance to his proposed new constitution as a blueprint for dictatorship.

Mr. Yeltsin told his Constitutional Assembly, which groups government leaders, deputies, leaders of Russia's 88 regions and republics, businessmen and others, that a single draft of the new constitution had been worked out.

But he conceded that differences remained and the assembly, initially supposed to wind up by June 16, would have to hold another meeting. No date for this was set.

The conservative-dominated parliament had challenged Mr. Yeltsin on the eve of Saturday's meeting by formally withdrawing its members, including Mr. Khasbulatov, from the assembly.

It demanded that Mr. Yeltsin sack First Deputy Prime Minister Vladimir Shumeikov and media aide Mikhail Poltorak after prosecutors investigating corruption allegations found evidence that both men had "exceeded their authority."

Mr. Yeltsin retorted that parliament was trying to sabotage his constitutional plans and trigger a government crisis.

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"There are two trains now — that of the republics and that of the regions — and they move on collision courses," said Valery Novikov, head of the Krasnoyarsk Regional Parliament in Siberia.

There was no immediate comment from either side on the talks.

In a verdict on May 26, the court declared the presidential orders illegal and reinstated Mr. Sharif his cabinet and the assembly.

Mr. Sharif has rejected demands for mid-term elections, saying the "spontaneous" reaction of the people against the president's action and the "historic" judicial verdict represented a new mandate for his government.

"There is no one in Nigeria who has been a member of any of the parties for one year," Baba Gana Kingibe, running mate to Moshood Abiola, undeclared winner of the first poll, told Reuters.

"After last August's primaries were cancelled, the party registration was also cancelled.

## De Klerk under pressure; AWB thumbs nose

JOHANNESBURG (R) — Pressure is mounting on President F.W. De Klerk to act against white right-wing extremists whose armed siege of democracy talks fuelled fresh charges that he is losing control of South Africa.

By Sunday morning, 48 hours after hundreds of armed white rightists battered their way into the negotiations centre outside Johannesburg, police had yet to make any arrests.

They said their probe was going slowly because suspects had given them false names, an explanation African National Congress (ANC) leader Nelson Mandela dismissed as ridiculous.

Mr. Mandela, speaking before leaving on a trip to Egypt and the United States Saturday night, said Law and Order Minister Hennie Kriel had telephoned him with a progress report.

"I said to him 'well you don't need to identify Constand Viljoen, Terre Blanche and Ferdi Hartzenberg... they were there, your policemen were there,'" Mr. Mandela said, adding that he had little hope for early arrests.

Mr. Eugene Terre Blanche, leader of the paramilitary Afrikaner Resistance Movement (AWB), was at the head of the mob of right-wingers who invaded the democracy talks venue Friday behind an armoured vehicle that punched a hole in the building's plate-glass facade.

General Viljoen, a former defence force chief, is coordinator of a right-wing umbrella group linking the AWB with Hartzenberg's pro-apartheid Conservative Party (CP).

Mr. De Klerk also left on a trip abroad Saturday night, but without speaking to journalists. He had promised Friday that the first arrests would be made by Saturday.

Mr. De Klerk and Mr. Mandela are due to jointly receive the U.S. Liberty Medal from President Bill Clinton in Philadelphia on July 4.

Asked if he was still willing to join Mr. De Klerk in receiving the award after the events of Friday, Mr. Mandela said: "That is not going to change my attitude, but of course I hope to brief the African public on the significance of what happened..."

"We must not think only of counting heads, an act which would make ourselves open to accusations of forming an 'illicit union,'" he said.

LDP leaders have accused the Hata-Ozawa party of seeking to make such a union or common law marriage with incompatible opposition partners, uniting only in their hatred for the long-time ruling party.

"We will not form an 'illicit union,' nor will we join hands with the LDP because that would not solve anything," Mr. Ozawa said.

Johannesburg's Sunday Times said the police failure to stop the AWB assault was a "spectacular display of incompetence" and Police Commissioner Johan Van Der Merwe should be sacked.

The Sunday Tribune urged Mr. De Klerk to punish the right-wingers. "Anything short of that will confirm growing suggestions that the government is indeed a lame duck."

The Sunday Star added: "The pathetic police helplessness in the face of the motley invaders is surely a reflection of the indecision that paralyses the government these days."

Political analysts said the right wing would grow increasingly dangerous as prospects faded of it being able to negotiate an independent white state in a post-apartheid South Africa.

They said Gen. Viljoen had strong support in the security forces and was capable of mobilising well-organised resistance among whites opposed to looting black majority rule. South Africa's first all-race election is expected in April next year.

The ANC has called for a day of mass demonstrations Thursday to protest at the right-wing raid and affirm support for the democracy negotiations.

An ANC source said ANC headquarters in Johannesburg had been evacuated Friday after reports the right-wing mob had chosen the building as its next target. The attack did not materialise.

Police issued photographs Sunday of four AWB members who they said had played a leading role in Friday's raid and appealed for information on their identities. One is an English immigrant who serves as a Terre Blanche bodyguard.

A spokesman for the AWB at their headquarters in the Western Transvaal town of Ventersdorp laughed when asked about the pictures. "No, they're not hiding. They're around. But it seems the police can't find them."

Inkatha Freedom Party leader Mangosuthu Buthelezi said Sunday the fears of white South Africans could be "terribly destructive" and should be taken seriously.

## 'Most Japanese teenagers read porn comics'

TOKYO (R) — More than 60 per cent of Japanese teenagers have read pornographic comics, according to a government survey, while almost half their parents said the situation could not be helped. A management and Coordination Agency study released over the weekend showed that 61 per cent of junior and senior high school pupils said that they had read such comics at least once. A breakdown showed the highest percentage of teenage readers — 87 per cent — was among high school boys aged 16 to 18. A total of 2,200 teenagers and 580 parents or guardians responded to the survey, taken late last year. While 48 per cent of parents said they saw the situation as unavoidable, only about 20 per cent said they regarded reading pornographic comics as a serious problem. Boys and girls reacted differently after reading the comic, however. While many boys said they wanted to read more, many girls said they were sickened by what they saw and did not want to try again. Many pornographic comics are published in Japan and are easily available in book stores and corner grocery shops. Even comics that target teenagers are full of explicit sexual scenes.

## Japan police nab record 450 kg of marijuana

TOKYO (R) — Japanese authorities have seized a record 450 kilograms of marijuana, and arrested a 61-year-old Japanese alleged to have tried to bring it in by ship from Singapore, a police spokesman said. Shiro Horii of Osaka is accused of attempting to smuggle the marijuana, with an estimated street value of 2.25 billion yen (\$21 million), into Japan in early April. Mr. Horii, who was formally arrested, hid the drug among wooden cargo pallets, the spokesman said. The amount seized is about double the total amount of marijuana confiscated last year, he said.

## 239-year-old violin vanishes from airport

SAN FRANCISCO (AFP) — A 239-year-old Italian violin shipped from Germany has disappeared from a cargo dock near San Francisco International Airport. Leon Igudesman, a violinist with the San Francisco Opera, said he bought the instrument by telephone for \$34,000 during an auction in Cologne last month and had it shipped here on Lufthansa Airlines. He said the violin was not at the airport's high-security cargo dock when he tried to pick it up a week ago. The violin was made in 1754 by Michael Deconete of Venice and had been shipped as cargo with no request for special handling. "We tore up our warehouse up and down. The piece is not here," said Frank Curci, a Lufthansa manager. "Someone apparently has helped himself."

## Toy train sets 1st world record

SINSHEIM, Germany (AP) — Here's a little engine that could, and then some. A souped-up model locomotive zipped down a track at 44.6 kph (27.6 mph) during a speed competition for toy trains. Organisers of the Choo-Choo Showdown said the locomotive has zoomed into the Guinness Book of World Records. No one knows whether other toy trains have travelled faster, because it was the first time one was officially clocked. The locomotive — built and owned by the German toyman Maerklin — carries its own high-powered electric racing motor, is about a half-metre long and 10 centimetres high. No cars are attached. One hot rod locomotive met a tragic end, running into a wall when parachutes meant to brake it failed to open. The toy train drag race took place on a specially built track at the Transportation and Technology Museum in the south German town of Sinsheim, near Heidelberg.

## Fake passport racket cracked in Australia

CANBERRA (AFP) — Immigration Department officials and federal police have cracked a racket in which illegal migrants here have been falsely obtaining Australian passports, government sources said. Immigration Minister Nick Bolick said investigations by his department and other government agencies had so far revealed 63 passport applications as being suspect among 300,000 applications, and investigations were continuing. His comment followed reports Sunday of a major crackdown by authorities which is said to have triggered panic among thousands of illegal migrants and people who have overstayed their tourist visas.

## Nepal police shoot dead rioters

BELFAST (AP) — The IRA claimed responsibility for the fatal shooting Saturday of a British soldier on patrol near the border with the Irish Republic. A sniper fired on troops patrolling an isolated road at Belleek, a few kilometres from the border town of Crossmaglen, said a police spokesman, who spoke anonymously.

The victim was not immediately named. In calls to local media, callers saying they represented the Irish Republican Army (IRA) said the outlawed group was responsible. The IRA has targeted troops and former service personnel in its military campaign to end British rule in the province. Some 20 people were injured Saturday when a hand grenade meant for the police exploded prematurely amongst marchers in a Protestant parade in Belfast, police said.

The grenade went off a police re-routed 1,000-strong parade away from a Catholic neighbourhood because of fears it might spark a confrontation with Republicans.

## IRA sniper kills soldier

KATHMANDU (AP) — Police said Sunday that they had shot five people in three days of anti-government unrest as anti-crowds continued to roam the streets here. At least 77 people were arrested for defying an overnight curfew, police said.

A police source confirmed that five people had been shot dead during day-long disturbance Saturday which followed a dawn-to-dusk strike called by Communists Friday. The government had earlier reported three deaths. More than 40 people have been injured and 150 arrested since the trouble started Friday and protesters gathered again early Sunday to denounce the government and police for their handling of the unrest.

## Nepal police shoot dead rioters

SEOUL (R) — South Korea's foreign minister said Sunday that Seoul would not make any more proposals to hold talks with the North

## Third time unlucky for Ivanisevic, Chang

LONDON (AFP) — It was third time unlucky for both Goran Ivanisevic and Michael Chang Saturday as the two seeds went crashing out of the Wimbledon championships.

Both men had battled bravely through grueling five set encounters in their first two rounds but the mental bruising accumulated on the way proved their undoing Saturday.

Chang's defeat to David Wheaton after more than four hours of heroic resistance was perhaps unsurprising. The 13th seed had only beaten Wheaton once in six previous encounters.

But the exit of the powerful Croat who came so close to beating Andre Agassi in last year's final at the hands of American Todd Martin ranks as a major upset.

When he got to the final set for the third time in five days, Ivanisevic just seemed to run out of ammunition.

Martin, a giant 22-year-old who even towers above Ivanisevic, took full advantage to clinch his best ever win 2-6, 7-6,

The fifth seed produced his normal quota of aces. He fired down 23 but it was 15 double faults and a series of uncharacteristic errors at the net that cost him the match against an opponent ranked 30 in the world.

Ivanisevic, who received a warning for racket abuse, took the defeat badly. He stormed out of the ground refusing to speak to the press and was fined a total of \$2,500 for that and the on-court warning.

Meanwhile, the writing seemed to be on the wall for Chang as he trailed by two sets to love with Wheaton playing some of the superb grass court tennis he is capable of.



Security guards keep a close eye on defending champion Steffi Graf as she signs autographs for fans (AFP photo)

But Chang simply refused to die and his determination to force the match into a fifth set produced an epic battle that Wheaton finally won 6-4, 6-4, 5-7, 4-6, 6-4 after four hours and 22 minutes on court.

"He's so mentally strong, I never counted him out," Wheaton said of his opponent. "In that fourth set no matter what I did the ball was coming back at my feet at 200 mph."

Chang was philosophical about defeat. "A few points here and there it could have been my match. I'm quite happy."

Wheaton now takes on Martin in a battle of the giant-killers.

Stefan Edberg's status as Wimbledon favourite took a battering as the Swede had his feared service broken six times by a player ranked 143 in the world.

Against any serious opposition, Edberg's erratic form would probably have cost him the match but Britain's Chris Wilkinson lacked the experience to capitalise on the second seed's mistakes and Edberg moved into the last 16 with a 6-4, 7-5, 6-3 victory.

The lack of form did not seem to greatly perturb the laid-back Edberg, who plays Richard Matuszewski for a place in the quarter-finals.

Australia's Wally Masur, playing better than ever after turning 30 last week, avenged his loss to France's Arnaud Boetsch in the final at Rosmalen, the Netherlands, in the run-up to Wimbledon.

Masur, who lost to Boris Becker in the fourth round last year, earned himself a crack at France's Cedric Pioline with a 6-3, 6-4, 6-7, 6-7, 6-4.

"I'm more relieved than anything," Masur admitted. "I had chances to win it early and I played bad tiebreakers but I pulled



Croatia's Goran Ivanisevic hits a backhand to his opponent (AFP photo)

it back in the fifth."

Pioline maintained French hopes along with Henri Leconte with a 6-4, 6-4, 6-3, win over Denmark's Kenneth Carlsen.

Jim Courier showed once again

that if he has a talent for anything it is for concentration and hard work as he overcame Australia's Jason Stoltenberg 6-4, 7-6, 3-6, 6-4.

The Australian, who was ranked number one in the world as a junior, wasted seven chances to clinch the second set.

The American, now has a serious test against South Africa's Wayne Ferreira who beat Sweden's Henrik Holm 6-4, 6-3, 7-6.

Garrison means double trouble for Fernandez

Mary Joe Fernandez became

the first major casualty in the women's singles at the Wimbledon championships when she crashed out to her doubles partner Zina Garrison Jackson Saturday.

Garrison Jackson, a finalist here in 1990, was close to quitting last year after allowing herself to get out of condition.

But all the work she has done to revive her flagging career paid off on the centre court as she raced to a 6-0, 6-1 victory over the fifth seed.

Her attacking style is ideally suited to the Wimbledon lawns but she was also helped by a series of incredible errors from Fernandez, who seemed to be heading higher after reaching the French Open final and stretching Steffi Graf to three sets.

"I was just one of those days

mediocre compared with the two wind-assisted 9.79sec runs by U.S. trials winner Andre Cason.

But Christie said: "Give me a 4.5-metre wind behind me and see what I can do. I'm not worried about times at this stage of the season. I will only be concerned if someone like the Russian gets that close in August."

Britain's men believed they were robbed first place as a political ploy in the 1991 event when incidents in both relays went the Soviet Union's way, qualifying them for the World Cup in Cuba.

Britain finished a disappointing fifth at the end of the first day.

France's men, whose best ever finish has been fifth, finished level first on 64 points with Italy

for Mary Joe," Garrison Jackson said. "She never really got a groove like she normally does."

Fernandez though paid tribute to the form of her friend. "I missed a couple of game points in the first two games and then she just got on a roll. Luckily I was able to hang on at the end and get just one game."

"If I am going to lose to anyone I don't mind losing to Zina."

"Since the beginning of the year she's been working really hard and it is paying off."

The winner herself admitted: "I got to a point last year when I wasn't interested in playing because I knew all the work it would take to get back in shape. I had become unprofessional."

"The thought of retirement was definitely running through my mind."

Through working with Bobby Kirsner on her fitness, the American managed to turn her career around but, now 29, she still plans to quit in a couple of years.

"I want to have kids and my husband is not the kind of man that's going to walk around holding the baby."

Garrison Jackson now plays the equally revitalised Natalia Zvereva, who beat 12th seed Katerina Maleeva in the first round, and came through her third round match in straight sets against Belgium's Sabine Applemans.

Fernandez was the only seed to fall as Martina Navratilova, Gabriela Sabatini and Jana Novotna all came through.

Sabatini had a tough battle to beat Natalia Medvedeva 6-1, 2-6, 6-4, while Navratilova continued her progression towards a 12th Wimbledon final appearance when she overwhelmed Patricia Hy.

Unlike Steffi Graf who regretted not having a tougher workout when she sailed through her third round match 6-0, 6-0, Navratilova was happy to take it easy in the early rounds.

"I had some tough matches in Eastbourne last week. I don't need tough match play."

Navratilova now plays 16th seed Nathalie Tauziat for a place in the quarter finals.

at the end of the first day.

But thanks to two victories, by 400m hurdler Stephane Diagana and Thierry Panet in the 10,000m — to Italy's one, they grabbed top spot.

Diagana dominated his event to win in 48.08sec, a new French record and the second best time in the world this year behind Olympic champion Kevin Young of the USA.

Panet got the better of Italian

Panetta and streaked ahead of him with four laps to go.

In the women's event, Russia are head and shoulders above the rest with 76 points and five victories.

Second-placed Romania, with three victories, are way back on 53 points.

## Gunwell, Privalova star in European Cup

ROME (AFP) — Britain's 400m hurdler Sally Gunwell and Russian sprinter Irina Privalova clocked best times in the world this year in the European Cup Saturday.

France head the men's standings and Russia the women before Sunday's final day, but it was the 53.73sec of Olympic champion Gunwell and the 11.08sec of Privalova which gave Europe something to shout about.

Though the recent U.S. trials had some astonishing performances, particularly in the sprints, Europe managed to outshine them in these events.

Britain's David Grindley won the 400m in a Cup record time of 44.75 on his debut, despite running in the outside lane. It was also the best time in Europe for the distance.

And team-mate Linford Christie took the 100m — for the fourth time in succession — ahead of Russian Alexandre Prokhomovskiy.

The time of 10.22 for Olympic champion Christie looks

mediocre compared with the two wind-assisted 9.79sec runs by U.S. trials winner Andre Cason.

But Christie said: "Give me a 4.5-metre wind behind me and see what I can do. I'm not worried about times at this stage of the season. I will only be concerned if someone like the Russian gets that close in August."

Britain's men believed they were robbed first place as a political ploy in the 1991 event when incidents in both relays went the Soviet Union's way, qualifying them for the World Cup in Cuba.

Britain finished a disappointing fifth at the end of the first day.

France's men, whose best ever finish has been fifth, finished level first on 64 points with Italy

at the end of the first day.

But thanks to two victories, by 400m hurdler Stephane Diagana and Thierry Panet in the 10,000m — to Italy's one, they grabbed top spot.

Diagana dominated his event to win in 48.08sec, a new French record and the second best time in the world this year behind Olympic champion Kevin Young of the USA.

Panet got the better of Italian

Panetta and streaked ahead of him with four laps to go.

In the women's event, Russia are head and shoulders above the rest with 76 points and five victories.

Second-placed Romania, with three victories, are way back on 53 points.

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## Holyfield victory fails to impress

ATLANTIC CITY (Agencies) —

Evander Holyfield came out of retirement to beat Alex Stewart Saturday on a unanimous decision that likely earned him a rematch against heavyweight champion Riddick Bowe.

But Holyfield, who lost the undisputed title to Bowe last November and then retired, did not impress many people with his performance against a listless Stewart.

Holyfield, who opened up a can over Stewart's left eye in the third round, used his jab much more than he has in the past and followed up with combinations that easily tattooed Stewart. There were no knockdowns in the 12-round bout.

But Holyfield, who had vowed to box more than he has in the past, did not move much laterally.

Against a better fighter he would have been a fairly easy target. Holyfield also showed signs that he still would make the mistake of trying to slug it out with bigger stronger men.

Lucky for him he fought Stewart, who looked like he wanted to be sitting on the beach, which was only a few yards (metres) from the Atlantic City Convention Centre, where about 10,000 fans broke out in boos in the 12-round fight.

The fight ended when Holyfield, who had opened up a can over Stewart's left eye in the third round, used his jab much more than he has in the past and followed up with combinations that easily tattooed Stewart. There were no knockdowns in the 12-round bout.

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## Moroccan opposition claims bigger victory

RABAT, Morocco (Agencies) — Despite their first parliamentary election victory, Morocco's long-persecuted opposition claimed Sunday that government cheating prevented them from a bigger score.

A four-party opposition coalition won 99 seats of 222 contested in Friday's legislative election, he first since 1984. Parties from the outgoing majority won 74. The rest went to smaller parties.

The results are unlikely to seriously challenge King Hassan's rule. The national assembly will remain weak, with the king retaining the power to dismiss it and the prime minister at will.

The score was not enough to give the opposition an outright majority. Another 111 seats remain to be chosen at a later date by local councils and professional bodies, mostly pro-king.

"The victory of the (opposition) union candidates was bigger than that announced by the official results," said an editorial in *L'Opinion*, organ of the national-stiqlal Party.

Opposition's complaints were mirrored by those of the previous governing parties. One said that the results "were neither transparent nor democratic."

King Hassan, under pressure from Western backers to improve his human rights record, has pledged to introduce more democracy in his realm of 24 million subjects.

The new government will face the challenges of trying to narrow the widening gap between rich and poor, rooting out corruption, and moving ahead on the flagging U.N.-backed referendum on the Western Sahara.

Istiqlal and the leftist Socialist Union for Popular Forces, the two largest opposition parties, have been the victims of blatant fraud in Morocco's previous elections since independence in 1956.

The parties claimed ballot-stuffing and vote-buying this time round, but cheating appeared less overt than in previous elections.

Interior Minister Driss Basri said they were characterised by "honesty, transparency and sincerity." The ministry said 65 per cent of the 11.5 million eligible voters cast ballots.

In a rarity in the Arab World, two women were elected to the national assembly, one each for Istiqlal and the Socialist Union. The two new assembly women,

both university professors, were among the 33 women on the list of 2,042 legislative candidates.

As the largest bloc, the opposition should be tapped to form a government. But that may depend on its ability to put together an alliance that would have a majority in parliament.

It will also hinge on who wins the remaining 111 assembly seats.

A coalition representing the outgoing government won 74 seats. The balance of power could be held by an ethnic Berber party, centrists and independents who combined to win 47 seats. Some have said they could work with Istiqlal and the Socialist Union.

Istiqlal and the Socialist Forces issued a communiqué denouncing "pressures, notably from the authorities, that voters were intimidated and ballot boxes stuffed. They promised to file complaints in court. A losing pro-government party also charged interference. But blatant fraud was less apparent than in previous elections.

AFP adds: Ahmad Zaidi, candidate of the Socialist Union of Popular Forces (USFP), hit out after the seat incorporating this town 40 kilometres south of Rabat was officially awarded to RNI independent movement candidate Abdul Kamel Reghai.

Mr. Zaidi's claim prompted a demonstration Sunday morning by several hundred of his supporters, which witnesses reported was brutally broken up by police.

The clashes took place outside the house of Mr. Zaidi's parents, whom he was visiting, and left four demonstrators injured, including an old woman who was taken to hospital, neighbours said.

Mr. Zaidi earlier told AFP the result, which put Mr. Reghai first out of 11 candidates with almost 50 per cent of the vote, was "grotesque" and bore no relation to closing reports from polling stations after Friday's election.

"In 50 polling stations — out of a total of about 130 — I received more than 18,000 votes against two or three hundred for my RNI rival," Mr. Zaidi said.

"I think I should have won with about 80 per cent of the votes but the local authorities have robbed me of my victory," he added.



An unidentified German soldier surveys the military airport in Mogadishu next to a sign post indicating the approximate direction and distance of several European cities, as well as that of the

local post office. United Nations forces in Somalia are taking seriously threats by fugitive warlord Mohammad Farah Aideed to kill U.S. soldiers and civilians (AFP photo)

## Iraq says 8 killed in missile strike

(Continued from page 1)

two covered bodies being removed from the rubble.

"I also saw several others bleeding and being rushed to ambulances," he said.

Iraq's ambassador to the United Nations, Nizar Hamdoun, said in New York that some of the missiles struck government buildings, but that others landed in residential neighbourhoods, killing and wounding civilians.

"There were numerous civilian casualties," Mr. Hamdoun said, but did not say how many. "We're still counting the wounded and dead."

Mr. Hamdoun denied Iraq's involvement in any assassination attempt, and said Washington did not contact Iraq's government to discuss the information provided by the men arrested in Kuwait.

"The attack was completely, unwarranted and unjustified," the Iraqi ambassador said.

Mr. Hamdoun said Iraq was considering filing a protest with the U.N. Security Council.

About 10,000 angry Iraqis marched in a funeral procession for six of the civilians killed in the U.S. attack.

Marchers took turns carrying the coffins of the six victims of the pre-dawn attack, as they walked for more than two kilometres through Baghdad's streets, an AFP correspondent said.

President Saddam meanwhile chaired a joint meeting of the Revolutionary Command Council and the national command of the ruling Baath Party to discuss the attack, state-run Iraq News Agency (INA) said.

Participants "examined the after-effects of the criminal and terrorist aggression perpetrated by the Americans against civilians and their homes as well as urgent measures to care for the wounded," INA said.

The government has denounced the surprise attack as "cowardly" and argued it was totally unjustified.

The United States described the raid as successful.

In a formal explanation of why the missiles were fired at Baghdad, Washington told the Security Council there was no reasonable prospect that new diplomatic initiatives on economic measures could influence Iraq to stop the attack on the United States.

A U.S. letter to Security Council President Juan Antonio Yanez-Barneu of Spain, said Washington had therefore decided, as a last resort, that it had to respond to an attempted attack against Mr. Bush, and the threat of further attacks, by striking at an Iraqi military and intelligence target involved in such attacks.

Gen. Powell said the cruise missiles were launched from the USS Peterson and USS Chancellorsville in the Red Sea and the Gulf, respectively.

Mr. Clinton called Mr. Bush just minutes after the attack was launched, and Secretary of State Warren Christopher had briefed Mr. Bush earlier Saturday, a senior administration official said.

Five Sudanese were among eight alleged extremists arrested Thursday. There also were reports that two diplomats with Sudan's mission to the United Nations were under investigation.

Omer Baridou, undersecretary at the Foreign Ministry, was quoted by the daily Al Ingaz Al Watan as saying the five Sudanese nationals "have no official link with the Sudan" and that they now carry U.S. papers.

President Clinton, in announcing the U.S. raid, said the council set for 2000 GMT Sunday.

A senior Sudanese official Sunday attempted to distance his country from the men arrested in New York on charges they were planning to blow up the United Nations and U.S. government buildings.

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U.S. sees Sudan as breeding ground, page 2

came as a normal result of the Iraqi regime's persistent involvement in and adoption of terrorist and destructive acts," the agency reported.

Sudanese Foreign Minister Hussein Abu Saleh, on a visit to Cairo, said of the U.S. attack: "This use of terrorism should not prevail in the civilised world, whether by persons or states."

"I wish the position of American policies were as strict towards the crimes that the Serbs carry out against Bosnia-Herzegovina, which violate all legitimacy and international conventions," Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Musa told the government-owned Middle East News Agency.

Turkish Prime Minister Tansu Ciller said: "We have always been for an effective response to international terrorism and cooperation in fighting it, but this should also be seen in Bosnia."

Israel Radio said Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin was among the area leaders Mr. Clinton telephoned to give prior warning of the attack. The cabinet also received a brief of the attack at its weekly meeting Sunday.

"The United States is a sovereign nation and I resume it took all the considerations for

expose Iraq's crime."

Ms. Albright, in her letter, said the United States had exercised its right of self-defence, under Article 51 of the U.N. charter, in response to Iraq's "unlawful attempt to murder the former chief executive of the United States government. President George Bush, and to its continuing threat to United States national security."

She said the Iraqi government bore direct responsibility for the failed attempt at assassinating Mr. Bush for actions he took while he was president.

It reached this conclusion "based on clear and compelling evidence of the government of Iraq's actions in the attempted murder."

Ms. Albright gave no further details, but the United States has said Mr. Bush was targeted during a visit last April to Kuwait, where he was hailed for leading the coalition which liberated the emirate from Iraqi occupation in early 1991.

Mr. Clinton pronounced the missile strike a success, but said Sunday he regretted civilians were killed.

"I feel quite good about what transpired," Mr. Clinton said on his way to church. "I think the American people should feel good."

Asked about civilian casualties, he said, "I'm sorry that happened, but I think we had minimal loss of life."

Defense Secretary Les Aspin told Cable News Network that damage to the main target was "very extensive" but declined to comment on whether further action was possible.

"We hit the target we intended to hit," Gen. Colin Powell, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said in a separate CNN interview.

Gen. Powell said at least three of the 23 missiles missed their targets and that some civilians were killed and injured.

Gen. Powell said the United States was moving the aircraft carrier USS Roosevelt into the region, but added he did not know if Iraq retaliated.

The Pentagon said Iraq had made "defensive" redeployments of troops and air defence units since the attack.

"It (the dispersal) took place within hours of the time over target and has continued on for a few hours ... it was defensive in nature," the Pentagon's director of intelligence, Rear Admiral Mike Cramer, told reporters.

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U.S. sees Sudan as breeding ground, page 2

## Allies back U.S. action; Arabs decry it

(Continued from page 1)

said: "One has to bear in mind what happened prior to that. There was a deliberate and pre-meditated attempt to assassinate the former president of the United States."

German Chancellor Helmut Kohl said the U.S. attack was a justified response to the alleged plot to assassinate Mr. Bush.

Malaysia slammed the attack as deeply regrettable, unjustifiable and liable to worsen crisis in the Middle East.

"No peace loving country could condone such an action," Foreign Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi was quoted by the national Bernama news agency as saying.

Kuwait Sunday expressed support for the U.S. missile strike on Baghdad, saying it was the consequence of what it called persistent Iraqi terrorism.

The cabinet called on the international community to keep pressure on Iraq to abide by resolutions passed after the 1991 Gulf war, the official Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) reported.

"Kuwait said the attack by the United States on the Iraqi intelligence headquarters in Baghdad

came as a normal result of the Iraqi regime's persistent involvement in and adoption of terrorist and destructive acts," the agency reported.

Sudanese Foreign Minister Hussein Abu Saleh, on a visit to Cairo, said of the U.S. attack: "This use of terrorism should not prevail in the civilised world, whether by persons or states."

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"The United States is a sovereign nation and I resume it took all the considerations for

## 2 Americans, Pakistani wounded in Mogadishu

MOGADISHU (Agencies) — Somali gunmen shot and wounded two American soldiers Sunday. About an hour later, a Pakistani soldier was wounded, military officials said.

A U.S. spokesman said the U.S. soldiers were fired on about 10 a.m. (0700 GMT) while clearing debris from 21 October Road, a wide avenue lined with abandoned factories and buildings where snipers are common.

Doctors at the U.S. military hospital refused to give the soldiers' conditions, but a spokesman said the wounds were not believed to be life-threatening.

A Pakistani soldier was shot and wounded along the same road, said the spokesman.

The attacks followed Friday's bombardment of a U.S.-government owned ship unloading jet fuel at Mogadishu's port. Attackers fired four rocket-propelled grenades across the water at the SS American Osprey, tearing a hole in a cargo hold and sending a stream of fuel pouring into the sea for about a half-hour. No one was injured.

Mr. Scowcroft said Mr. Clinton and Mr. Bush talked by telephone for about 45 minutes Saturday.

Following are excerpts from President Clinton's speech to the nation Saturday:

"This past April, the Kuwaiti government uncovered what they suspected was a car bombing plot to assassinate former President George Bush while he was visiting Kuwait City. The Kuwaiti authorities arrested 16 suspects, including two Iraqi nationals.

"Following those arrests, I ordered our own intelligence and law enforcement agencies to conduct a thorough and independent investigation. Over the past several weeks, officials from those agencies reviewed a range of intelligence information, travelled to Kuwait and elsewhere, extensively interviewed the suspects, and thoroughly examined the forensic evidence.

"This Thursday, Attorney General (Janet) Reno and Director of Central Intelligence (James) Woolsey gave me their findings, based on their investigation, there is compelling evidence that there was, in fact, a plot to assassinate former President Bush, and that this plot, which included the use of a powerful bomb made in Iraq, was directed and pursued by the Iraqi intelligence service.

"We should not be surprised by such deeds, coming as they do from a regime like Saddam Hussein's, which is an atrocity, which invaded two neighbours, attacked others, and engaged in chemical and environmental warfare. Saddam has repeated, violated the will and conscience of the international community, but this attempt at revenge by a tyrant against the leader of the world coalition that defeated him in war is particularly loathsome and cowardly. We thank God it was unsuccessful. The authorities who foiled it have the appreciation of all Americans.

"... On Friday I ordered our forces to launch a cruise missile attack on the Iraqi intelligence service's principal command and control facility in Baghdad. Those missiles were launched this afternoon at 4:22 eastern daylight time (2022 GMT).

"Our intent was to target Iraq's capacity to support violence against the United States and other nations, and to deter Saddam Hussein from supporting such outlaw behaviour in the future. Therefore, we directed our action against a facility associated with Iraq's support of terrorism, while making every effort to minimise the loss of innocent life.

TEL AVIV (AFP) — An Israeli minister issued veiled death threats during a cabinet meeting Sunday against anyone selling non-conventional weapons to Iran, Israeli radio reported. "Israel must let those who help the Iranians arm themselves with non-conventional weapons know that they are risking their lives," Environment Minister Yossi Sarid reportedly said at the weekly session.

### Christians open dial-a-prayer hotline

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AFP) — Christians launched a hotline to the Holy Land here Sunday to enable followers around the world to dial a prayer in Jerusalem. Former U.S. President Ronald Reagan joined an array of politicians, ambassadors and church leaders through a video-taped message to the inauguration at a Jerusalem hotel overlooking the Mount of Olives. Mr. Reagan said from Los Angeles: "Prayer really does work..." He urged the gathering to say a prayer for world peace. Israel's telecommunications company Bezeq, in cooperation with the Jerusalem Bible Institute, has opened 50 lines on which Christians can call volunteers from churches in the city to pray.

### Israeli helicopters blast Hezbollah house

NABATIYEH (AP) — Two Israeli helicopter gunships blasted a house used by guerrillas in South Lebanon Sunday. Police said there were no casualties. They said the Cobras demolished the one-storey house in the pine woods surrounding the village of Zawtar Al Ghareeb with five wire-guided missiles at 6:15 p.m. (1515 GMT). The house belonged to Hissen Ali Ibrahim, a woman affiliated with Hezbollah, said police officials in the nearby market town of Nabatiyeh. Reporters